

THE Nonconformist.

'THE DISSIDENCE OF DISSENT AND THE PROTESTANTISM OF THE PROTESTANT RELIGION.'

VOL. XV.—NEW SERIES, No. 491.]

LONDON: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28, 1855.

[PAGE 6d.]

PATRON: H. R. H. PRINCE ALBERT. ROYAL POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTION.

MONDAY EVENING, LECTURE by J. H. PEPPER, Esq., on the CHEMISTRY of the NON-METALLIC ELEMENTS. Tuesday Evening, Important LECTURE on SIEGE OPERATIONS in Connection with SEBASTOPOL, by E. JEXILL, Esq. (late Captain Grenadier Guards.)

TELEPHONIC CONCERT by INVISIBLE PERFORMERS. Thursday, DRAMATIC READING, by Mr. HOON LESLIE: RICHARD the THIRD.—Wednesday and Friday, ASTRONOMY, by Dr. BACHMANN, with appropriate Music.

The three last performances of the TYROLESE MINSTRELS, Monday, Tuesday, and Friday Evenings.

JOHN B. GOUGH will deliver an ORATION in EXETER HALL on THURSDAY, the 29th March.

Doors open at Seven; Chair taken at Eight o'clock. Tickets—Body of the Hall, 6d.; Reserved Seats and Platform, 1s. May be had at the Offices of the London Temperance League, 337, Strand.

WANTED, a Respectable YOUNG PERSON to WAIT in a TOY and FANCY SHOP. Apply to Mr. Stephenson, Stratford-on-Avon.

WANTED, a SECRETARY for the MANCHESTER YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION. Undoubted piety and active business habits essential. Apply, by letter only, on or before April 4; addressed to the Committee, John-Dalton-street, Manchester.

TO BOOT MAKERS.—WANTED, by a YOUNG MAN, "Five years a Closer," TUITION in CLICKING in a First-class Bespoke Trade, for Four or Six months. Unexceptionable references as to character. Apply to W. G. Hopwood, jun., Carlton-place, Cheltenham.

TO GROCERS.—WANTED SHORTLY, a SITUATION in a RETAIL TRADE, where there is a prospect of permanency. Unexceptionable references. Address, Kafat, Post-office, Cambridge.

TO GROCERS.—A YOUNG MAN wishes to engage himself in the above line as an IMPROVER. Address, A. Wenban, Smarden, Kent.

TO WHOLESALE GROCERS.—WANTED, a SITUATION as TRAVELLER, BOOKKEEPER, or SALESMAN, by a YOUNG (married) MAN of business habits, and considerable experience. Address, L. M. N., 11, Oxford-terrace, Halifax.

TO GROCERS' ASSISTANTS.—WANTED IMMEDIATELY, a YOUNG MAN just out of his Apprenticeship, to do the WORK of a COUNTRY SHOP, for which only a small Salary will be given. Apply to Mr. Joseph Orchard, Hemel Hempstead, Herts.

TO SCHOOLMASTERS.—Rickmansworth, Herts, with a population of 5,000, is without a School. Twenty day scholars could be secured at once. A Dissenter, if single, would find this an excellent opening. Apply to T. P. Tracy.

TO COMMITTEES of BRITISH and other DAY SCHOOLS.—WANTED, by a Certificated Master, a RE-ENGAGEMENT. First class testimonials. Address, J. Andrews, Wellingboro', Northamptonshire.

TO SCHOOL COMMITTEES.—The ADVERTISER being about to leave his present School, where he has been nearly Six years, is desirous of meeting with another ENGAGEMENT. He was trained at the Boro'-road, and has had some experience in London. Address, E. H., British School, Chipping Norton, Oxon.

TO LINEN and WOOLLEN DRAPERS and CLOTHIERS.—WANTED, in a Dissenting family, an IMPROVER, about Eighteen or Nineteen years of age. Apply, stating terms, age, reference, to Mr. S. M. Allen, draper, Buckingham.

DRAPERY.—S. F. WHEELER, 19, High-street, Ryde, Isle of Wight, is in want of an ASSISTANT, a Christian, and one who understands thoroughly his business; also a JUNIOR ASSISTANT. He has also a VACANCY for a well educated and sharp lad as an APPRENTICE.

THE REV. JOHN NOALL, B.A., Blackpool, receives a few Select PUPILS to BOARD and EDUCATE. Conditions and first-class references forwarded on application.

STAMFORD-HILL LADIES' BOARDING SCHOOL.

The MISSES COOK will have VACANCIES at the ensuing Quarter, and can also receive a GOVERNESS PUPIL. A Dissenter preferred. For terms and references apply as above.

COMFORT and ECONOMY.—HAWKES' COMMERCIAL HOTEL, 7, BEAUFORT-BUILDINGS, opposite Exeter Hall, STRAND, London. N.B.—Private rooms if required.

23, CROWN-STREET, READING.
ESTABLISHMENT for YOUNG LADIES, by Mrs. S. W. KILPIN and Miss FULLER. Testimonials, References, and Terms, upon application.

HOPE HOUSE ACADEMY, WOODFORD-GREEN, ESSEX. The Rev. W. BURNETT continues to receive a Limited Number of YOUNG GENTLEMEN to BOARD and EDUCATE. Woodford is celebrated for its salubrious air, elevated situation, and gravelly soil. Prospectuses forwarded on application.

HYDE PARK SCHOOL, HEADINGLEY, LEEDS.—The course of instruction includes the Latin, Greek, French, and German languages; Chemistry, Drawing, and Drilling, together with the usual branches of a good English education. Quarters commence January 30th, April 10th, July 31st, and October 9th, 1855. Terms may be had on application to the Rev. R. Brewer.

ANGLESEA HOUSE ACADEMY, ORPINGTON, KENT.—Christian parents, especially those of Dissenting principles, who desire a sound secular and religious Education for their Sons, will find the above-named Establishment worthy of their notice. A Circular, stating terms (which are moderate) and giving all necessary information, with numerous references to parents, will be sent on application to Mr. Askin, at the Academy; or to the Rev. R. Hamilton, St. Mary Cray, Kent.

SYDENHAM-PARK ESTABLISHMENT for YOUNG LADIES. Conducted by Miss STEELES. The PUPILS receive the benefit of careful training, and a liberal education. Eminent Professors attend the School. References permitted to the Rev. George Clayton, Rev. Thomas Binney, the Rev. John Stoughton, and to the parents of Pupils.

PORTLAND GRAMMAR SCHOOL, PLYMOUTH, conducted by Mr. R. F. WEYMOUTH, M.A. (of University College, London), M.R.A.S., &c., &c., assisted by well-qualified and experienced Masters. The Course of Studies pursued at this Establishment is suitable as preparatory either for a College Course, or for Professional or Commercial Life. The house is very healthily situated in the highest part of the town, and close to the northern outskirts, but at a convenient distance for sea-bathing. Terms, from 35 to 45 guineas per annum.

EDUCATION for YOUNG LADIES, King-street, Leicester.—The MISSES MIALI, whose school has been established for many years, continue to receive a limited number of Young Ladies for BOARD and EDUCATION. They will have VACANCIES FOR PUPILS after the present Quarter. The best masters are engaged for French, German, Drawing, Music, Singing, and Deportment. References: Rev. G. Legge, L.L.D., Leicester; Rev. J. Sutcliffe, Manchester; W. Sunderland, Esq., Ashton-under-Lyne; Rev. J. G. Miall, Bradford; Rev. G. R. Miall, Ullesthorpe; and E. Miall, Esq., M.P., Sydenham-park, London.—Terms and full particulars on application. The ensuing quarter will commence on the 2nd of April.

VOLUNTARY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION. The Distinctive Features of this Association are—That all Education should be Religious, but, at the same time, be free from Sectarian Influence, as to command the sympathy and co-operation of all Denominations of Evangelical Christians; and that the State being incompetent to give such an Education to the people, should not interfere in the matter, but leave it entirely to Voluntary Effort. Subscriptions and donations will be thankfully received by the Treasurer, G. W. ALEXANDER, Esq., 40, Lombard-street; or at the office of the Association, Walworth-place, Walworth, London.

HENRY RICHARD, } Hon. Secs.
JOSEPH BARRETT, }

7, Walworth-place, Walworth.

CRAUFURD HOUSE CLASSICAL, MATHEMATICAL, and CHEMICAL SCHOOL, MAIDENHEAD, BERKS.

Mr. PEARCE has pleasure in announcing that the increase of his Pupils has led to extensive alterations and enlargement in Craufurd House, combining every arrangement for convenience, comfort, and health. During nine years, medical attendance has been required once. The various branches of polite and useful learning are taught in the most approved, expeditious, and effective methods. Discipline is maintained, and good habits are formed, by careful training and vigilant superintendence. The pupils speak French constantly; many as easily as English. German is spoken. There are Singing and Drawing Classes. A Band of Music is being formed. Science is taught experimentally. The younger pupils are under special and appropriate management.

The vigour, cheerfulness, and enthusiasm in cricket, gymnastics, swimming, daily rambles, and frequent excursions into the neighbouring country, attest the scope and encouragement afforded to the development of boyish feelings and physical strength. The Terms are from 30l. to 40l. per annum. References of the highest respectability will be sent on application.

IMPORTANT to DISSIDENT MINISTERS.

SUBSCRIPTIONS have been commenced to establish a PRECEPTORY for the DAUGHTERS of BAPTIST and INDEPENDENT MINISTERS, providing a Liberal and Accomplished Education for a minimum charge. Twelve Pupils can now be admitted and immediate application is necessary, as the Directors will meet on the 16th April. Full particulars in reply to a letter (enclosing a stamp) addressed Rev. H. Le Fevre, Baptist Minister, Thornbury, Gloucestershire.

GLOUCESTER-TERRACE, HIGHGATE, BIRMINGHAM.

MRS. SOUTHWELL (Widow of the late Rev. Benjamin Southwell, B.A., Missionary to China), RECEIVES YOUNG LADIES under her care, to whom she offers the advantages of a liberal Education, based upon Christian principles.

Mrs. Southwell has had much experience in Tutoring, and assures those Parents who may entrust their Daughters to her charge, that every means shall be adopted to promote their happiness and health, and every inducement given to make study a privilege and delight. Mrs. Southwell will be aided by highly efficient teachers. The daughters of Ministers received on advantageous terms. Terms and particulars given on application.

References:—Rev. Dr. Tidman, Mission House, London; Rev. F. Pratt, Mission House, London; Rev. C. Dunn, B.D., Incumbent of St. Peter's, Walsall; Rev. Dr. Raffles, Liverpool; Rev. Dr. Redford, Worcester; Rev. Dr. Morison, Brompton; Rev. Dr. Gordon, Walsall; Rev. G. W. Conder, Leeds; Joseph Hodgson Esq., F.R.S., London, &c., &c., &c.

SOLDIERS' FRIEND and ARMY SCRIPTURE-READERS' SOCIETY.

PATRON. The Right Hon. the Lord R. Grosvenor, M.P. The Right Hon. the Earl of Carlisle, K.G. The Right Hon. the Earl of Kintore. The Viscount Errington, M.P. PRESIDENT—The Rev. Dr. Marsh.

OFFICES—14 AND 15, EXETER HALL, STRAND, LONDON.

COMMITTEE. The Hon. Major H. L. Powys. Major-Gen. Buckley, M.P. Colonel Anderson. Captain Bailey. Lieutenant Blackmore. Captain De Butts. Captain Burrows. Mr. R. Elliott. Captain Graydon. Captain Lindsay. Major Lewis. Mr. W. J. Maxwell. Mr. J. Oliver. Major Popham. Mr. J. Pears. Captain Power. Mr. J. Redford. Capt. Sandburgh. Capt. Stuart, M.P. Captain Tilly. Captain Young. Captain Trevor.

SECRETARY—Mr. William A. Blake, 15, Exeter Hall, Strand.

Missionary to the Russian Prisoners—Rev. E. Shillyman.

Missionary to the French Protestant Troops—Rev. A. Levi.

Superintendent of the Agents at the Seat of War—Rev. George Campbell, B.A.

BANKERS—Royal British Bank, 425, Strand.

The Committee feel it a duty due to themselves, and to the Christian public, to state, that encouraged by the liberality of the friends of the soldier, they have considerably extended the list of their operations; and from the deeply-interesting reports (several of which have been recently printed and widely circulated), which they are constantly receiving from their agents, it is evident that the Lord is working by them and with them, and thus crowning their needful and arduous labours with a large measure of success. Hence they are encouraged and emboldened to make a fresh appeal to the continued sympathies, fervent prayers, and renewed liberality of their supporters in this cause.

For the spiritual and eternal benefit of the brave and beloved defenders of our country (in humble dependence on the Divine blessing), there are now actively employed, under the auspices of this Society, nineteen Scripture-readers. And the Committee would entertain the hope that this number may yet further be augmented if this appeal is liberally responded to, seeing that the supply is far from being at all adequate with the wide, and yet widening field of labour which is presenting itself on every side.

The following are the several departments of labour occupied in this Christian enterprise. One agent is actively and usefully employed in visiting the barracks in London, Westminster, and the surrounding military depots. One is engaged amongst the militia in London, and its vicinity, who will also visit the wives and families of the soldiers. It is also the intention of the Committee, as promptly as possible, to mature certain plans for the employment of a Scripture-reader at Aldershot, during the great encampment, which is likely for some months to be located there. There are also one agent in Kent, one in Dorsetshire, occupied amongst the militia, one in the West of England, one in Yorkshire, one missionary to the Russian prisoners at Plymouth and elsewhere, one in Scotland, and one in Ireland.

On foreign service—there are eight at Constantinople and Scutari. Two of these are clergymen of the Church of England, one of whom chiefly directs his attention to the spiritual instruction of the Protestants in the French army. (One is at Balaklava. And the committee have much pleasure in stating that they have also just appointed a Scripture-reader to labour amongst the thousands of military at Malta, under the auspices of the Rev. W. Hare, the garrison chaplain.

A series of small and interesting publications, especially adapted to the thoughts and habits of the soldiery, have been prepared, and gratuitously and widely circulated by all the agents at their various spheres of labour, at home and abroad. Also, an interesting magazine, entitled "The Sentinel," is published every alternate month, and gratuitously circulated, and cordially accepted by the soldiers.

Having before them so extensive and inviting a field of labour, the Committee confidently present the religious claims of this Society to continued and increased support before all those who profess to feel the vast value of immortal souls. They therefore most respectfully, yet most earnestly, entreat their friends, and the public at large, in no degree to relax their efforts (for the claims on the Committee are great and urgent), but rather still more effectively than before to aid them in this great and important enterprise, by their Christian sympathies, and, above all, by their united and fervent prayers for a still larger measure of the Divine blessing on their several labours, at home and abroad.

The thanks of the Committee are presented to the following friends for valuable donations of books and tracts:—Friends: Clifton, per Rev. G. Blissett, Dr. Lorimer, Miss Shephard, Rev. Dr. Cumming, Rev. A. P. Black, the Misses Harrison, Archdeacon Law, and Rev. J. Dalton.

Contributions will be thankfully received by the Treasurer, G. Burns, Esq., 17, Portico-road, Paddington; by the Secretary, Mr. William A. Blake, at the Offices, 14 and 15, Exeter Hall; by Rev. Dr. Marsh, Beckenham; by Messrs. Nisbet, Seymour-street, Oxford-street; Lieutenant Blackmore, 6, Seymour-place, New-road; by the Bankers, Royal British Bank, 425, Strand; and at the Offices of the "Record" and "Christian Times."

APPRENTICESHIP SOCIETY.

At the HALF-YEARLY GENERAL MEETING of the Members of this Society, held at the CONGREGATIONAL LIBRARY, FINSHURY-CIRCUS, on TUESDAY, March 27, 1855, the first Four Candidates from the subjoined list were ELECTED to the benefit of the Institution.

Votes.		Votes.	
John Summers	581	John Strang Striding	289
Thomas Smith	551	Elizabeth Thomas	171
Claudius W. Whetter	546	Isabel Cyprian Langley	141
Anne Davies	474	John Coleman Jones	106
Thomas Marriott	457	Richard H. Shakespear	85
Joseph Ebenezer Hicks	326	Joseph Gust Warner	84

JOHN ADEY, Chairman.
I. VALE NUMMERY, } Hon. Secs.
W. WELLS KILPIN, }

* The Votes of the unsuccessful candidates will be carried to their account at the next Election.

COURTAULD TESTIMONIAL FUND.

SECOND LIST OF PROMISED SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Sir Samuel M. Peto, Bart.	5 0 0
Sir Wm. Clay, Bart., M.P.	5 0 0
Jas. Bell, Esq., M.P.	2 2 0
Geo. Hadfield, Esq., M.P.	2 2 0
Jas. Heywood, Esq., M.P.	1 1 0
W. H. Ashurst, Esq., London	1 1 0
Philip Croft, Esq., ditto	1 1 0
H. S. Skelton, Esq., ditto	0 10 6
Stephen Olding, Esq., ditto	2 2 0
James Spicer, ditto	1 1 0
G. T. Kemp, Esq., ditto	2 2 0
Wm. Wansey, Esq., Reform Club	1 1 0
Mrs. Edwards, Denmark Hill	0 10 0
Benjamin Dixie, Esq., Peckham	0 10 0
John Epps, Esq., M.D., London	2 2 0
Joseph Bartram, Esq., ditto	1 1 0
J. Ingram Travers, Esq., St. Swithin's-lane	2 2 0
S. Smith Travers, Esq., ditto	2 2 0
Archibald Travers, Esq., ditto	2 2 0
William Nathan, Esq., Loughton	1 1 0
Richard Harris, Esq., Argyle-square	1 1 0
William Price, Esq., Hornsey	1 1 0
Henry Thompson, Esq., St. John's Wood	1 1 0
Travers Buxton, Esq., Denmark Hill	2 2 0
James Carter, Esq., Hornerton	2 2 0
James Powell, Esq., Clapton	1 1 0
R. L. Fennings, Esq., London-bridge	1 1 0
James Fennings, Esq., ditto	1 1 0
H. N. Phillips, Esq., Manchester	1 1 0
H. S. Foster, Esq., Cambridge	1 1 0
John Crossley, Esq., Halifax	2 2 0
Famuel Tabor, Esq., Braintree	2 2 0
Charles Tabor, Esq., ditto	1 1 0
J. S. Legerton, Esq., ditto	1 1 0
J. S. Legerton, jun., Esq., ditto	1 1 0
H. Le Keux, Esq., ditto	1 1 0
Joseph Garrett, Esq., ditto	0 10 0
G. Laver, Esq., ditto	0 10 0
James Brown, Esq., ditto	0 10 0
Belaham, Esq., Maldon	1 1 0
G. Portway, Esq., Bury St. Edmunds	1 1 0
C. Beard, Esq., ditto	1 1 0
Thomas Harwood, Esq., Ipswich	1 1 0
Messrs. Springfield and Co.	5 0 0
R. B. Johnson, Esq., Halstead	0 10 6
Richard Ash, Esq., Bristol	1 1 0
Rev. B. Johnson, Halstead	0 10 6
Rev. W. Palford, ditto	0 10 6
Charles Child, Esq., Bungay	2 2 0
J. Bloomfield, Esq., Braintree	1 1 0
H. Smith, Esq., ditto	1 1 0
J. West, Esq., ditto	1 0 0
Small sums	3 1 0

Those who intend subscribing to the fund are requested to communicate immediately to one of the undersigned.

DAVID REES, Braintree.
J. CARVELL WILLIAMS, 2, Serjeant's Inn, Fleet-street. } Hon. Secs.

March 27th.

PERPETUAL INVESTMENT, LAND, AND BUILDING SOCIETY.

22, NEW BRIDGE-STREET, BLACKFRIARS, LONDON.

SHARES.—A 10s. Share may be paid by instalments, in the same manner as deposits in Savings-banks; a 25s. share, by the payment of 5s. per month for 7½ years; a 50s. share, by the payment of 10s. per month for 10 years; a 100s. share, by the payment of 20s. per month for 12½ years; or of 10s. per month for 15 years; or of 5s. per month for 20 years.

Shares subscribed in full will bear a fixed interest at 5½ per cent. per annum, payable half-yearly.

Five per cent. compound interest allowed upon the withdrawal of subscriptions, which can be done at a short notice.

Deposits received daily, and interest from four to five per cent. per annum allowed. Only a short notice (usually a week) required for the withdrawal of deposits.

This Society is adapted for the securing of Annuities, Endowments, and Apprenticeship Fees, particulars of which can be ascertained upon application.

In this Society there is no Personal Liability, and the whole of the Profits belong to the Shareholders.

Shares may be taken, Prospectuses had, and information obtained, at the offices of the Society, between the hours of Nine and Five, and on Wednesdays from Nine to Eight, or a prospectus will be sent upon receipt of one postage stamp.

JOHN EDWARD TRESIDDER, Secretary.

PROGRESS AT THE THIRD MEETING.

Shares issued, 710. Amount taken, £1,738.

INDEPENDENT BUILDING SOCIETY, AND BANK FOR DEPOSITS.

Interest Six per Cent.

Shares, £60. Entrance, 2s. 6d. Subscriptions, 5s.

The Independent and West London Dissenters' Building Societies, so well-known and supported, have advanced upwards of 150,000, upon freehold, leasehold, and copyhold property. This Society, established under the same management, has no Ballot rule, allows 6 per cent. upon loan deposits, repayable at one month's notice; is fixed at ten years' duration; offers great facilities in the redemption of mortgages, and prompt and liberal advances. All shares taken can be withdrawn at any time with six per cent. interest.

The principles of the Society have been tested by an eminent Actuary, and proved to be perfectly sound.

The fourth 1,000s. will be offered to competition at the FOURTH SUBSCRIPTION MEETING, which will be held on TUESDAY, APRIL 10, 1855, at Seven o'clock, at WARDOUR CHAPEL-SCHOOL, WARDOUR-STREET, SOHO.

In consequence of the success realised at the third meeting, this Society will shortly close. Country Members will please make their payments to the Secretary at the London Office only.

Shares and Shares Issued daily by the Secretary, Mr. J. B. OWEN, 3, Oldham-place, Bagnigge-wells-road, near Exmouth.

AT 25 PER CENT. PER ANNUM, FROM £20 TO £1,000.

NEW NATIONAL LIFE, FIRE AND LOAN COMPANY.

44, Oxford-street, Bloomsbury, London.

THOMAS BOURNE, Resident and Managing Secretary.



ACHILLES INSURANCE COMPANY,

25, CANNON STREET, LONDON.

19, PRINCESS-STREET, MANCHESTER.

CAPITAL:—£100,000, in 10,000 Shares of £10 each.

With power to increase to One Million.

EDWARD MIAL, Esq., M.P., Chairman.

Col. LOTHIAN S. DICKSON, Deputy Chairman.

The advantages offered by this Company will be seen on an investigation of its Rates of Premium, which are based upon the latest and most approved corrected Tables of Mortality, and the terms of its Loan business. It offers to the Assured the security of a large subscribed Capital, combined with all the advantages of a Mutual Assurance Office—Eighty per Cent of the Profits being divided amongst the Policy-holders every five years.

POLICIES ARE INDISPENSABLE.

No CHARGES made for POLICY STAMPS OR MEDICAL FEES.

One THIRD of the Premiums on Assurances of £500 is allowed to remain unpaid, and continue as a claim on the Policy.

POLICIES NOT FORFEITED if the Premiums are not paid when due.

LOANS are granted to Policy-holders on liberal terms. A Policy of the amount only of the sum borrowed, being as collateral security, required.

For the convenience of the WORKING-CLASSES, Policies are issued as low as £20, at the same Rates as larger Assurances.

Premiums may be paid Quarterly, Half-yearly, or Annually.

Any other Particulars, or Rates of Premium required for any contingency, can be obtained of the Agents of the Company, or at the Chief Office, 25, Cannon-street, or of the Secretary.

HUGH BROWN TAPLIN, Secretary.

THE GENERAL LIFE AND FIRE ASSURANCE COMPANY.

Established 1837.

Empowered by Special Act of Parliament.

62, KING WILLIAM-STREET, LONDON.

CAPITAL—ONE MILLION.

DIRECTORS.

George Bonfield, Esq.	William Hunter, Esq., Alderman.
Thomas Challis, Esq., Alderman, M.P.	James Pilkington, Esq., M.P.
Jacob George Cope, Esq.	Thomas Piper, Esq.
John Dixon, Esq.	Thomas B. Simpson, Esq.
John T. Fletcher, Esq.	The Right Honourable C. P. Villiers, M.P.
Charles Hindley, Esq., M.P.	
Edward Wilson, Esq.	

The Lady-day Fire Renewal Receipts are now ready, and may be had, on application, at the Head Office of the Company, or of any of its agents throughout the country.

Losses by Explosion of Gas made good by the Company.

In the LIFE DEPARTMENT, FOUR-FIFTHS of the PROFITS divisible by the Company's Deed of Settlement, allowed to Assurers, and the Company transacts all business relating to Life Assurances, Deferred Annuities, and Family Endowments, on the most liberal terms consistent with sound principles and public safety.

No charge for STAMPS on LIFE ASSURANCE POLICIES.

LOANS granted on Personal Security, and the deposit of a Life Policy to be effected by the Borrower.

To all Agents, Solicitors, Auctioneers, and Surveyors, a liberal allowance is made.

By order of the Board,
THOMAS PRICE, Secretary.

NOTICE OF REMOVAL.

KENT MUTUAL LIFE and FIRE ASSURANCE SOCIETIES.

The OFFICES of these Societies have been REMOVED to their NEW PREMISES, QUEEN-STREET-PLACE, NEW CANNON-STREET, LONDON.

Agents wanted in some vacant localities.

GEORGE CUMMING, Manager.

TOWN TALLOW-MADE CANDLES.

GOOD MOTTLED AND YELLOW SOAP.

OIL OF ALL KINDS.

Chaplin and Lambert, 89 and 90, Leather-lane, Holborn.

EVERLASTING GOLD PENS.

THE sale of several gross during a short period is the best guarantee of the superiority and cheapness of ALFRED PEGLER'S WARRANTED GOLD PENS. Full size, 3s. each; smaller, 2s. 6d.; Silver Cases for ditto, 2s. 6d. each. A great variety of Penholders, with Patent Pencils, in old and silver, suitable for presents. They will be forwarded free by post to any address, and exchanged if not approved.

Each Pen bears the name of ALFRED PEGLER, 151, HIGH-STREET, Southampton.

PIANOFORTES WHOLESALE.—Buy your

Pianofortes at the Manufacturers, at the Wholesale Trade Price quotations. An excellent Pianoforte, 25 Guineas, others at 24, 25, 26, 30, and upwards. Each instrument is warranted perfect, and packed for the country, free of expense.

RALPH SMITH and Co., Manufacturers to the trade, 171, Bishopsgate-street, London.

"We have seen from purchasers and competent judges the most satisfactory testimonials to the fulness of power, richness of tone, and other excellences of the instruments furnished by Messrs. R. Smith and Co."—*Watchman*, Jan. 5, 1853.

COALS.—Eastern Counties Railway.

The following are this day's prices of COALS brought to London by this railway:—From the County of Durham—Stewart's Wall's-end, 26s. per ton. Whitwell or Old Etherley, Wall's-end, 24s. per ton. From the Yorkshire and Derbyshire coal fields, best quality:—Silkstone main, double screened, 23s. per ton; Rothwell Haigh, Clay Cross, and Tupton, screened 21s. 6d. per ton; second quality, screened, 20s. per ton; hard steam coals, 21s. Baker's Hartley's, 20s. per ton. Nuts, 18s.; Small, 12s. These coals will be delivered at the above prices two miles from the Mile-end or Bishopsgate Stations. Beyond two and under five miles, 1s. per ton extra. Beyond five miles, 1s. per ton per mile extra. Orders may be addressed to Mr. ALFRED S. PRIOR, Mile-end or Bishopsgate Stations. Cash to be paid on or before delivery.

By order,
J. B. OWEN, Secretary.

Bishopsgate Station, January, 1855.

BRUSSELS CARPETS at 10d. a Yard.

Cheaper than last year, all the newest patterns and best make.

Double and single width Damask, Reps, Brocatelles, French Damasks, Utrecht Velvets, &c., &c. (Curtains made, trimmed, and fitted complete with Cornices, &c.)

Fancy and Easy Chairs, Settees, Couches, Conversation Sofas, in French and English Stoffings of the most elegant forms, Loo and Dining Tables, Wardrobes, Dinner Waggons, Devonports, Drawers, Bedsteads, Purified Bedding, &c., &c., all of which are cheap in the same ratio as the carpets.

The recent unsatisfactory state of our foreign trade, and consequent large failures at home, have enabled us to buy and sell at these present low prices. The process of restoration in our Colonies are long must be rapid, and then prices will rise. Merchants, Householders, &c., &c., will do well to buy at the lowest point, which is now.—CHARLES MEETING and COMPANY, 141 and 142, Holborn-hill, second door from Fumival's-inn.

BEST COALS ONLY.—COCKERELL

and Co., COAL MERCHANTS to HER MAJESTY.—Cash price to-day, 27s. per ton for screened unmixed best Coals (officially certified), to which quality their trade has been exclusively confined for the last twenty years. Purfleet Wharf, Earl-street, Blackfriars, and Eaton Wharf, Belgrave-place, Pimlico.

ONE THOUSAND BEDSTEADS TO CHOOSE FROM.—HEAL and SON

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THE Nonconformist.

"THE DISSIDENCE OF DISSENT AND THE PROTESTANTISM OF THE PROTESTANT RELIGION."

VOL. XV.—NEW SERIES, No. 491.]

LONDON: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28, 1855.

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Ecclesiastical Affairs.

THE MAYNOOTH COLLEGE ENQUIRY.

THE "Report of Her Majesty's Commissioners appointed to enquire into the Management and Government of the College of Maynooth," respecting the mysterious non-appearance of which ominous rumours have been lately circulated, is at length out; and now that it is out, those who were looking for it in a flutter of expectation, declare that, like Lord Burleigh's shake of the head, there's nothing in it! That, however, is the exaggeration of disappointment; for it would be unjust to commissioners, secretaries, witnesses and index-makers, to inscribe on these two volumes, with their 770 pages—the result of eighteen months' gestation—*ridiculousness*! The real fact is, that the complaining parties have got an abundant supply of that which they did not want, and next to nothing in satisfaction of their actual desires.

It will be remembered—or, perhaps, it will not be remembered—that the Commission was issued by the Crown in September, 1853, and was composed of the Earl of Harrowby, Chief Baron Pigot, Dr. Longfield, Q.C., Dr. Twiss, and Mr. Jas. O'Ferrall, with a brace of barristers—Messrs. West and O'Hagan—as secretaries. Had these gentlemen been members of the Protestant Association, they could not have addressed themselves to their work with greater promptitude, nor, for a time at least, have stuck to it with more assiduity; for, whereas the Commission was dated the 19th September at St. James's, we find them in full conclave at Dublin Castle on the day following, sitting daily up to the end of October, and at it again with the new year, until they could reckon up no less than thirty-six sittings. Here ended the first act, and—still to use dramatic phrase—"a year is supposed to elapse;" for, whether the Commissioners had a quarrel and couldn't make it up—or required twelve months' repose after their *ad nauseam* labours—or wished to experiment on Mr. Spooner's patience—certain it is, that 354 days elapsed ere they again met, at the Treasury, in London, to consider the draft of their Report; such consideration resulting in the adoption, at the fortieth sitting, of the Report, which the Rev. Tresham Gregg has by this time tossed out of the window or consigned to the flames!

The Commissioners themselves either were too shortsighted to anticipate such an issue, or they must have had the rarest appetite for resultless labour. They, at least, had no idea of putting up the scaffolding prior to the demolition of Maynooth. On the contrary, they appear to have regarded it as their "mission" to inaugurate a new era in its history, to the glory of Roman Catholicism and the confusion of all No Popery agitators. So, deciding to conduct their enquiry by means of both written interrogatories, and of oral examination, they forwarded papers of questions to the president, vice-president, professors and officers of the college—invited information and suggestions from its visitors and trustees, "and every Roman Catholic bishop in Ireland"—examined the professional staff—inspected the college minute book, "from the foundation down to the present time"—examined the students in their secular studies, and inspected the buildings and "some of the apartments of the professors and students." Not confining their enquiry within technical bounda-

ries, they studied the curriculum at the Roman Catholic colleges at Paris and at Rome, and by means of our diplomatic staff, ransacked the continent for information calculated to throw light on the education of Romish ecclesiastics.

More closely touching the proposed object of the enquiry were "certain specific charges made against the teaching in Maynooth," by those who have been educated there, but have since left the Romish Church; but of ten witnesses vouched by "The Priests' Protection Society," and "The Friends of Conscience Society," only five were forthcoming. The doctrines and principles of the Roman Catholic Church regarding questions most directly affecting the State, and respecting which the Maynooth teaching had been impugned as immoral—the number educated—and the annual supply of priests supplied by the College in Ireland, Great Britain, the Colonies, and foreign States, were other and certainly not the least important features of enquiry.

With the "Origin of the College," and its history from the days of Archbishop Troy to those of Sir Robert Peel, we have become pretty familiar, and the interest of that part of the Report which relates to its government is centered in the rather startling, however natural, recommendation of certain changes, for "infusing greater energy and activity" into the Trustee Board. In the same practical spirit they criticise the professorial arrangements, the studies, the discipline, and even the recreations of the Maynooth neophytes. We are told when the students rise, and how each hour of the day is occupied; that "every Wednesday, when the weather is fine," they walk into the country for three hours, and on other days "play at ball, or bowls, or prison bar;" and it is suggested, that when there are two wet Wednesdays, the out-door exercise shall be had the next day! So we learn that the students may have any books, subject to inspection, but that the deans do their utmost to keep out newspapers, and, of course, fail!

"The effects of the increased grants"—viz., the 30,000*l.* voted in 1842, and the increased annual grant—is the heading to that part of the Report which will be turned to with the greatest eagerness, but which will no doubt most excite disappointment. By "effects," those who demanded the enquiry meant one thing, while the commissioners clearly understood something different. In place of any attempt to estimate the moral or political results of the Act of 1845, we have a flourishing account of the material improvements which increased funds have enabled the College authorities to effect. We have the exact measurement of the new quadrangle, with a list of the apartments, and are told that the structure is built of "limestone rubble-masonry," that "the windows are of cut stone," and the sashes "of galvanized iron." There is, however, still room for a further expenditure of John Bull's money; for neither "the great refectory," nor the students' apartments, have "even a fireplace"—the ventilation is defective, and a larger chapel, a common hall, a suitable infirmary, bathing accommodation, provision for gas, and means for drying and airing linen, are among the items of *desiderata*. And, that the well-wishers to Maynooth may be fully impressed with the value of these "effects" and suggested additions, there are presented two lithographed sketches, *a la Pugin*, of "the Royal College of St. Patrick," as it is, and it is wished to be—sketches over which Romanists will rub their hands, and which Mr. Newdegate will tear in tatters!

It must not, however, be supposed, that the Commissioners altogether ignore the higher and more difficult department of the enquiry. They "heard no imputation from any quarter against the moral character of the young men," and believe their moral conduct to be irreproachable. The duty of allegiance, the obligation of oaths, and the preparation of students for the functions of the confessional, are touched upon, but in a gingerly way, for, say they, "the subjects are of a very intricate and complex character, in some cases involving very nice distinctions." They prefer leaving the evidence "to make its own impression," but, as the general result of the whole, they

"see no reason to believe that there has been any disloyalty in the teaching of the College or any disposition to impair the obligations of an unserved allegiance to her Majesty." Neither do they find that the studies belonging to the confessional have had, "practically, an injurious effect upon the mind and character of the students."

There are printed some curious statistics of the supply of priests turned out of this great "priest manufactory," as it has been called. Of 2,291 priests in Ireland in 1853, only 1,222 had been educated in Maynooth, to which there are to be added fifty-two collegiate and non-parochial priests. Only twenty-four of those officiating in Great Britain came from Maynooth, and not more than one ecclesiastical student in three or four years leaves the college to officiate elsewhere than in Ireland. The proportion of the Irish priesthood receiving education at Maynooth is stated to be on the increase, and is likely to continue to be so.

These are the salient points of the report—the evidence being an arcanum into which we have not as yet penetrated. What judgment may, after a hasty glance, be pronounced upon it? We reply that that must chiefly depend upon the point of view from which it is regarded?

Sidney Smith—anxious only to make Irish priests "gentlemen"—would have rejoiced over such a Report, and Sir Robert Peel would smirkingly have drawn vindications of his policy from its pages. And if a Maynooth College is to be regarded as one of the national institutions, in the stability and prosperity of which the legislator is bound to take an interest, this enquiry may properly take its place beside those of the Oxford and Cambridge Commissioners, and it must be acknowledged that valuable materials have been placed in the hands of those on whom the responsibility of educating the Romish priesthood devolves.

But Mr. Spooner did not wish Maynooth to enjoy the *clat* of such an investigation as this has turned out to be. He wanted it to be shewn that Maynooth was stocking Ireland, and the colonies, with ecclesiastics trained in disloyalty, treachery, and immorality; and if such evidence had been forthcoming, he would only have continued to cry "Away with the Maynooth Grant!" Instead of this, he has it demonstrated that the grant has increased the educational appliances of the institution, has raised its character, and has otherwise augmented its efficiency in the accomplishment of its avowed purpose—the supply of the well-trained agents of Rome. All this will be as gravel to his teeth, and he will only cry as before "Away with the Maynooth Grant!"

The fact is, that the issue of the commission was a characteristic device to stave off for a while what was deemed an impending mischief. And that object having been gained, the labours of the Commissioners—who appear to have been quite oblivious of Mr. Spooner, and innocently unconscious of the tendency of his movements—now appear ludicrously *mal a propos* to the exigencies of the case and the actual position of affairs. We are nearing, and statesmen of all classes must begin to recognize the fact, the extinction of this endowment, which is treated in these Blue Books as though it were to last for ever. Already the tocsin is being sounded, and Protestantism of all shades is being invoked, not to fight over a vote in the Miscellaneous Estimates, but to carry a Bill repealing the Act of 1845. It is easy to foresee the issue. A combination of parties, united in object, but widely differing in motive, will finally destroy both Peel's act and Peel's policy, and then away will go what was intended to be, and really is, a buttress of the tottering Irish Church Establishment. The real victors will be the Anti State-Church party. For to quote, with a modification, a recent County Down oration, "All State-support of religion must be withdrawn, and Maynooth must go down first!"

CHURCH-RATE ABOLITION.

The following Forms of Petitions have been published for the guidance of those who wish to send up petitions from their own localities. It will be well, however, that the forms should not be closely adhered

to. It is expected that Sir William Clay's bill will be introduced to-morrow night, and that the second reading will be debated after Easter. During the next two weeks, therefore, everything that can be done should be done in the way of petitioning and of influencing members of the House of Commons.

PETITIONS SHOULD BE THUS DRAINED:

To the [Right Honourable the Lords Spiritual and Temporal] or, [The Honourable the Commons] of Great Britain and Ireland in Parliament assembled.

The humble Petition of [the undersigned Inhabitants of —, or, as the case may be].

The following forms are intended merely as suggestions. It will be seen that they contemplate a variety of circumstances, which can be stated more fully, and therefore more effectively, under the advantage of local knowledge.

Petitions must be in writing. Each petitioner must sign his own name only, and at least one signature must be on the sheet containing the petition: for want of this, several petitions were last year rejected. Petitions may be sent post free to peers or members of Parliament, if enclosed in a paper open at both ends, and marked "petition." Where time presses, they may be addressed to the peer or member at the House; but in such case, a letter should be also addressed to him at his private residence, acquainting him that they have been so sent.

Signatures should by no means be confined to Dissenters, many Churchmen being favourable to the object, which now receives valuable aid from both sides of the House.

FORM I.

[Where there are contests.]

Showeth,—That your petitioners object on principle to all compulsory interference with men's conduct which is based on religious grounds, and regard the exaction of Church-rates, as perhaps the most objectionable form in which such interference is now practised.

That the levying of such rates is the occasion of periodical seasons of sectarian strife and social bitterness among those who would, but for these exactions, live together on terms of mutual good will—placing it in the power of a few perseveringly to disturb the peace and good order of a whole neighbourhood.

That your petitioners having experienced in their own locality for many [or mention the number] years past, the ill effects of this mode of repairing religious edifices, are the more desirous that it should be put an end to by the Legislature without further delay.

That your petitioners are not disposed to forego the exercise of their ancient rights as vestrymen or parishioners; and feel, moreover, that all Her Majesty's subjects are equally interested in the preservation of that important portion of the national domain.

That your petitioners seek relief herein as citizens only, and inasmuch as any exemption accorded to them on the ground of any special religious belief would be at variance with the great principles for which they are anxious to contend, they feel bound respectfully to declare that no attempted settlement of this question can possibly be acceptable, which does not finally relieve from the impost of Church-rates, all Her Majesty's subjects, irrespective of their religious profession.

Your petitioners, therefore, pray your [Right] Honourable House, speedily to pass a law for the total abolition of Church-rates.

And your petitioners will ever pray.

FORM II.

[Where rates have ceased.]

Showeth,—That your petitioners regard with much satisfaction a bill lately brought before Parliament for the entire abolition of Church-rates.

That your petitioners, by the exercise of their ancient and undoubted rights as vestrymen, have for many years past [or lately] entirely freed themselves from these imposts, and your petitioners have experienced the good effects of this course in the increased harmony and goodwill now prevailing among your petitioners [who are of various religious persuasions].

That there has never been any difficulty since the cessation of Church-rates among your petitioners, in maintaining the fabric of the parish churches in an effective state of repair.

That your petitioners are anxious that these benefits should be extended throughout the whole kingdom, more especially in those places in which, by the prevalence of the opposite system, great dissatisfaction and ill-feeling have so long been kept alive.

That your petitioners are satisfied that legislation based upon religious grounds is false in principle, and invariably injurious in practice; and look to the speedy abolition of Church-rates as an earnest of the adoption by the Legislature of the true principles of religious freedom in all similar cases.

Your petitioners therefore humbly pray your [Right] Honourable House to pass the bill for the entire abolition of Church-rates as speedily as may be.

And your petitioners will ever pray.

FORM III.

[Where the Opponents are a Small Minority.]

Showeth,—That your petitioners have heard with pleasure that a bill has been introduced into Parliament to abolish the power of making Church-rates in any parish of England and Wales.

That your petitioners are for the most part inhabitants of a parish in which Church-rates continue to be levied in opposition to many of the parishioners, who, being only a minority, are exposed to the injustice of having their conscientious scruples disregarded, and are often compelled, by threats of proceedings at law, or by actual seizure of their property, to furnish their quota of that which they regard as an unrighteous impost.

That your petitioners cannot understand that a mere arithmetical difference in two classes of the parishioners, can render a tax expedient and just in one parish which is pronounced injurious and oppressive in another.

That your petitioners can bear witness to the mischievous effects which arise from the present want of uniformity and impartiality in the law of Church-rates, and to the facility with which these evils may be remedied by the free contributions of those who worship at the parish church.

That your petitioners object to the settlement of this question by any attempt to abridge the ancient rights of parishioners, but they desire that the levying of Church-rates should be abolished as fully and as much without compromise in every parish in England as it is at present

in those parishes in which the opponents of a Church-rate are in a majority.

Your petitioners therefore humbly pray your [Right] Honourable House that the bill introduced into Parliament for the total and immediate abolition of Church-rates, may speedily pass into a law.

And your petitioners will ever pray.

FORM IV.

[General.]

Showeth,—That your petitioners regard with much satisfaction a bill now before Parliament for the entire abolition of Church-rates.

That your petitioners believe such a measure to be imperatively required, to relieve the consciences of a very numerous portion of Her Majesty's subjects; while the extent to which the places of worship of all religious denominations have for the last fifty years been multiplied and kept in repair by voluntary subscription, conclusively establishes the safety of exclusive reliance on that principle.

They therefore pray your [Right] Honourable House to pass the said bill into a law.

And your petitioners will ever pray.

Petitions for the abolition of Church-rates have been presented during the past week from the Shropshire Baptist Association, Kettering, Chichester, and Kingston-upon-Thames.

OUR CHURCH-RATE RECORD.

In Market Harborough, Leicester, as we learn from the local *Mercury*, there has been considerable excitement in connexion with Church-rates, three gentlemen—Mr. William Andrews, solicitor; Mr. William Buswell, solicitor; and Mr. T. G. Grundy, draper—having been charged before the magistrates with refusing to pay a Church-rate. Various legal objections were made against the rate, but were ultimately set aside. Mr. Andrews said, he should feel it his most conscientious duty to resist the rate in money payment, should they (the magistrates) issue their warrant of distress, and they would be obliged to seize for it. (At this there was an attempt at applause, but it was speedily suppressed.) There had been such a stir in many places, that it had led to imprisonment and seizure of goods. It was by such resistance that the law would be repealed. Sir W. Clay had brought in a measure of abolition; although it would be a relief, it was not all he could wish. The Government found it pressing upon them, and they only required their hands strengthening from without. He believed that there was plenty of the voluntary spirit in Harborough to support the Church as well as Dissenting chapels. The Methodists raised 135*l.* for their minister, besides 20*l.* for other expenses and societies; the Baptists 90*l.*, and 10*l.* for other expenses; the Independents (the congregation to which he belonged) raised 200*l.* for their minister, and 130*l.* for the Bible, Missionary Society, incidental expenses, &c. He thought that showed the voluntary principle worked well in Harborough. The last Census showed that at Harborough the attendance at the chapels was 950, while that of the church was but 600. —The chairman said, they always endeavoured to act with as kind a spirit as possible, and free from all party spirit; they were bound by their oath so to do. They expressed no opinion whether it was just or not to pay Church-rates or poor-rates, but they were bound to administer the law as they found it. He would say it would be their bounden duty, and that a painful one, to issue a warrant, if the rate were not paid, as it appeared to be perfectly a legal one, and they must enforce it.—Mr. Buswell and Mr. Grundy made similar objections to those of Mr. Andrews, and expressed their determination to resist the payment in money. They had been encouraged in this by the late Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Gladstone.—Mr. Buswell thanked the magistrates for their courtesy and kindness during the hearing. The rate was proved a valid one, and distress warrants will be issued if it is not paid.

At Thirsk, the property of Messrs. B. Smith, R. Carter, and J. Baker, members of the Society of Friends, has been distrained upon for Church-rates, which they have refused to pay, and for the cost of the warrant.

At a vestry-meeting held, on Thursday, March 22, at Wrentham, Suffolk, the subject of Church-rates was introduced. It appears that for years past the rates in this parish have been entirely retrospective. The churchwarden presented his account for the year now ending, and sought a rate of one penny in the pound to liquidate the debt. The Rev. J. Browne showed that this was an illegal course, and proposed to reimburse the churchwarden by a voluntary subscription. This plan was rejected, and the rector proposed a rate of twopenny in the pound, to cover the expense of last year, and to provide for the necessities of the coming year. The proposition was carried, notwithstanding Mr. Browne's protest against it, which set forth that the rate was doubly illegal, first, because it was partly retrospective, and secondly, because the churchwarden had presented no estimate for the coming year. The Vestry has thus carried a rate which can never be enforced.

PERVERSION TO ROME.—The *Tablet* announces that Mr. Palmer, of Magdalen College, Oxford, has been formally received into the Romish Church.

THE PRESTON CEMETERY.—Another three-hours' vestry meeting was held in the Council Chamber on Thursday, to debate certain matters relating to the new cemetery. The two questions which agitated the meeting most were, the data upon which the division of the cemetery land into three portions should be made, and the equality of charges for burial in any part of the cemetery. At the last meeting, a resolution was passed by the vestry, recommending the board to adopt an equal scale, irrespective of parochial fees. This the board has done; but an attempt was made on Thursday, though unsuccessfully, to rescind

this resolution, and to carry an opposite vote. The merits of the charges and the principle involved were discussed at great length.—*Preston Guardian*.—[A correspondent says, that at the above meeting every effort was made by the Church party to pack the meeting with the most noisy of their adherents, but they were defeated in law, and all their motions miscarried.]

Religious Intelligence.

CRAVEN CHAPEL AND DR. LEIFCHILD.—On Thursday, the 15th inst., the venerable Dr. Leifchild visited Craven Chapel, for the first time since he resigned his pastorate. He presided over the annual tea-meeting of the Christian Instruction Society, which was held in the school-room. His reception was very cordial. When the doctor entered the rooms, accompanied by the deacons and other attached friends, all the meeting rose and sang a hymn of welcome, which had been prepared and printed for the occasion. In the course of his address Dr. Leifchild spoke of the success which had attended his labours at Brighton, though the ministers of Brighton prognosticated he would never get a congregation. He told several interesting stories, and enchaind the attention of the large auditory for nearly an hour. The meeting was then addressed by W. Leifchild, Esq., and Mr. Frazer, Mr. Pittman addressed the meeting on the working and usefulness of the parent society, and the success which had attended it throughout its varied and extensive labours of love for the many years it had now existed. —Mr. George Wilson, one of the deacons, described to the doctor that he had before him portions of all the fourteen societies now existing and in active operation, which he had founded during his pastorate. The meeting was also addressed by the Rev. W. Spencer Edwards, and was brought to a close about ten o'clock. On the following Lord's-day, Dr. Leifchild preached to a large congregation, among whom were multitudes of his old attached friends, from Colossians iii. 15. The collections amounted to about 50*l.*

LIVERPOOL.—On Tuesday, March 13, the Rev. John Dewsnap, of the Lancashire Independent College, was publicly ordained as the pastor of the Church and congregation assembling in Hanover Chapel, Mill-street, Liverpool. The Rev. M. Davies conducted the opening devotional exercises, the Rev. Dr. Raffles delivered the introductory discourse, the Rev. John Kelly asked the usual questions, the Rev. Jonathan Sutcliffe, F.S.A., offered the Ordination Prayer, the Rev. Dr. Vaughan gave the charge to the pastor, and the Rev. Joshua Tunstall concluded the service with prayer. The Rev. James Mann, Rev. Robert Kirkus, Rev. Henry Griffiths, Rev. W. Hareus, also took part in the service. The sermon to the people was delivered by the Rev. John Kelly, on the following Sabbath evening, March 18. On the evening of Thursday, there was a public tea-meeting in connexion with the ordination services; the pastor presided; and the meeting was addressed by the Rev. Wm. Graham, the Rev. Hugh Stowell Brown, Rev. James Mann, Rev. Robert Kirkus, and the Rev. Wm. Hareus.

THE JEWS IN PALESTINE.—On Tuesday evening, 20th inst., the friends of the Rev. John Mills, author of the "British Jews," gave a private *soirée*, previous to his departure for the East, at the London Coffee House, Ludgate-hill. From eighty to a hundred were present; and, after partaking of excellent tea and coffee, the chair was taken by the Rev. R. Jones, B.A., Incumbent of All Saints, Rotherhithe. The chairman having opened the proceedings, Mr. Mills gave an outline of his intended tour, the principal object of which is, to inquire into the condition of the Jews, especially in Palestine. Several gentlemen, both lay and clerical, addressed the meeting; and all separated highly gratified with the proceedings.

INTERMENT OF MR. HENRY ALTHANS.—On the 13th March, the mortal remains of this honoured and valued friend of Sabbath-schools were deposited at the Abney-park Cemetery, in the presence of many hundreds of persons, most of whom were Sunday-school teachers. Such was the interest felt on this occasion, that, on the procession leaving the residence of the deceased, both sides of the road, from his house to the cemetery (a very considerable distance) were filled by persons who were proceeding to the place of interment. The solemn service was commenced by Mr. Maitland (one of the oldest and most attached friends of the deceased) giving out a hymn. The Rev. W. Woodhouse, of the Adelphi Chapel, read the Scriptures and offered prayer. Dr. Alexander Fletcher delivered a powerful address, in which he did full justice to the merits and services of the departed; and Mr. Woodhouse concluded with prayer and pronounced the Benediction. At the close of this service, a numerous company assembled at the school-room in Gascoigne-place, Shore-ditch, under the presidency of Mr. Sheriff Crossley. This meeting was rendered unusually interesting by the circumstance that Mr. Althans had engaged, if spared, to take part in its proceedings. Mr. Maitland, the honorary secretary to the "Althans' Educational Testimonial Fund," said that the amount of the contributions to the fund was nearly 500*l.* At seven o'clock the same evening, the funeral sermon was preached at Sion Chapel, Whitechapel, by the Rev. Charles Stovel. The large sanctuary was filled to overflowing.

LONDON REFORMATORY FOR ADULT MALE CRIMINALS.—On Tuesday afternoon, a public meeting on behalf of this institution, which is conducted in Great Smith-street, Westminster, was held at Willis's Rooms; the Earl of Shaftesbury presiding. The Rev. Samuel Martin having opened the meeting with prayer, the chairman said the meeting had been called together for the pur-

pose of hearing a statement as to the progress of the institution, and of being asked to co-operate in the efforts they were making to reclaim the criminal population. Their system was to submit the applicant first to a period of probation, namely, bread and water and fourteen days' solitude. That was, in fact, the key stone of their whole system. If the applicant remained in the institution after that period of probation, he was then subjected to a course of education during the next twelve months; he had to learn a trade, and had also to conform to all the regulations of the institution. The inmates were perfectly free agents. They were told on entering that the doors were open to them to go out if they liked, but that if they once quitted the walls without permission, they could never return. The system had brought about some of the most remarkable instances of reformation that had happened since the world began. With all that, the society was constantly on the verge of bankruptcy, and it called upon that meeting to assist it in its difficulties, and to encourage the establishment of similar institutions throughout the country. Mr. Nash, governor and corresponding secretary, read the report for the last year, which stated, *inter alia*, that the number of inmates in the Reformatory was, on an average, 100, from the age of seventeen upwards. Among the applicants for admission were several ticket-of-leave men, who had unsuccessfully tried to obtain employment. Of the 400 men who had gone out of the institution since its establishment, very few had fallen back into evil habits. The amount of money stolen by the 100 men now in the institution was at least 76,400*l.*; and taking the same amount of money to have been stolen by the 400 who had left the institution, the 500 who had been rescued by it from degradation and misery must have robbed the public of about 382,000*l.* (Hear.) One of the men who had left the institution had since given 5*l.* to its funds, and had promised to double his subscription next year.—Mr. Serjeant Adams, in moving the first resolution, said that what was wanted was some reformatory like this, to which these unfortunate ticket-of-leave men might repair after they were given their liberty. They might then fairly try whether the antecedent system of punishment might or might not be of use. The learned serjeant concluded by moving:—

That this meeting, convinced that the adult male criminal is reclaimable, pledges itself to encourage the exertions made in the London Reformatory for the attainment of so great an object, and responds to the appeal now made for additional funds.

The motion was seconded by Sir John Warrender, Bart., supported by Mr. E. Ball, M.P., and carried unanimously. The Rev. H. Alford, B.D., of Quebec Chapel, then moved—

That the inadequacy of the regular subscriptions to carry out the society's operations, is a subject of great anxiety; and therefore, the increased exertions of all friends of the Reformatory, are earnestly required to increase its annual income.

The motion was seconded by Captain O'Brien, and also carried unanimously. Mr. Wood, the treasurer, explained the financial position of the institution at the present time, which showed that it was a little in debt. Funds are immediately wanted for the emigration of twenty-five inmates, besides increased subscriptions to raise the income to about 3,000*l.* per year. The annual subscriptions do not exceed 700*l.* On the motion of Mr. Joseph Payne, barrister, the thanks of the meeting were unanimously accorded to the chairman.

THE REV. CHARLES HARRISON, for the last seven years the minister of the Independent Chapel, Bird-bush, Salisbury, having been unanimously invited by the Church and congregation assembling in the Independent Chapel, South Molton, Devon, to become their pastor, commenced his ministry there on the 25th inst.

UPMINSTER.—The ordination services in connexion with the settlement of the Rev. G. Kettle were held on Thursday, the 22nd inst. The Rev. S. Pearce, of Romford, having read the Scriptures and offered prayer, the Rev. S. Ransom, of Hackney College, delivered an introductory discourse upon the Nature of a Christian Church; the Rev. I. S. Hall, of Chatham, proposed the usual questions; the Rev. G. Clayton, of Walworth, offered the ordination prayer; the Rev. J. Watson, of Hackney College, gave the charge to the minister; and the Rev. T. Binney preached to the people. The Revs. G. Martin, C. Latham, J. Morison, and W. Triton also took part in the services. At the dinner, the Rev. T. Binney took the chair, and speeches of a congratulatory character to the newly-ordained minister were delivered by the above gentlemen, in addition to other friends.

DORCHESTER, DORSET.—The Rev. Josiah Miller, M.A., of New College, London, has accepted an unanimous invitation from the Church and congregation assembling in the Independent Chapel in this town, to become their pastor; and purposes entering upon his stated labours the last Sabbath in April.

STONEWAY CHAPEL, BRIDGONORTH.—The Rev. D. D. Evans, of Barnby, has accepted a cordial and unanimous invitation from the members of the Church assembling in this place of worship, and will commence his pastorate on Sunday, April 1.

An accident which created some alarm occurred on Tuesday at the House of Lords. A stone of considerable size was to be raised to the parapet of the new works; but when near its destination, the fastening gave way, and it fell through the ceiling of one of the corridors, and rolling against one of the stained glass windows, slightly disfigured the feet of one of the female figures. If the impetus had been a very little more, it would have burst through the windows into the gallery. The Lord Chancellor was delivering judgment in an appeal at the moment, and the excitement was considerable until the cause of the noise could be ascertained.

Parliamentary Proceedings.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

PETITIONS PRESENTED.

Army, for improvement of soldiers, 1.
Border Marriages, for prohibiting, 1.
Decimal Coinage, in favour of, 3.
Distillation from Grain, for prohibiting, 5.
Intoxicating Liquors, for prohibiting the sale of, 13.
Ditto, on Lord's-day, 16.
Licensing System, against alteration of, 1.
Lord's-day, for opening British Museum, &c, on, 2.
—against, 35.
Newspaper, &c., Bill, in favour of, 27.
—against, 3.
—for alteration, 4.
Passengers Act Amendment Bill, for alteration, 1.
Poland, in favour of independence, 1.
Public Health Act, against, 3.
Public-houses (Scotland) Bill, for extension to Ireland, 4.
Sale of Beer Act, for repeal, 5.
—against, 1.
Schools (Scotland) Bill, for alteration, 4.
—in favour of, 2.
War, for bringing to a close, 1.
Burial Acts, for inquiry into, 1.
Burials beyond the Metropolis Act, for amendment, 5.
Church-rates, for the abolition of, 4.
—against, 1.
Criminal Justice Bill, in favour of, 1.
Dwelling-houses (Scotland) Bill, in favour of, 1.
Ecclesiastical Titles Act, for enforcement of, 1.
Friendly Societies Bill, in favour of, 2.
Reformatory Schools for Juvenile Delinquents, in favour of, 1.
Marriage Law Amendment Bill, against, 1.
Newspaper Stamp Bill, against new measure and in favour of original bill, 27.
Nuisances Removal Amendment Bill, in favour of, 1.
—against, 2.
Public Health Bill, against, 3.
—in favour of, 1.
Stage Carriages, for abolition of duty, 1.
Wages, for payment without stoppages, 2.
Burial Grounds (Scotland) Bill, for alteration, 1.

BILLS READ A FIRST TIME.

Newspaper Stamp Duties Bill.
Public Libraries and Museums (Ireland) Bill.
Marriages (Scotland) Bill [to impose further restrictions on irregular marriages].
Regulation of Births, &c. (Scotland) Bill.
Affirmation (Scotland) Bill.

BILL READ A SECOND TIME.

Dwelling-houses (Scotland) Bill.
Newspaper, &c., Bill.

BILLS READ A THIRD TIME AND PASSED.

Intramural Burials (Ireland) Bill.
Militia (Ireland) Bill.

DEBATES.

THE POLICY OF PRUSSIA.

In the House of Lords, on Tuesday last, Lord LYNDHURST brought forward his motion on the policy pursued by Prussia with regard to Russia and the Western Powers, and, in a speech of great length and ability, proceeded to demonstrate from diplomatic documents that the conduct of that State throughout the whole of this question had been stamped by weakness, vacillation, and bad faith. To enforce these views, he did not confine himself to the present, but drawing upon history he narrated the well-known conduct of Prussia towards England in 1794; and her conduct after the battle of Austerlitz—when she abandoned her character as a mediator, and received Hanover as the price of her alliance with Napoleon.

The vacillation of Prussia at that period, professing one thing and doing another, playing the game of fast and loose, corresponds exactly in principle with the conduct which she has pursued throughout the whole of these negotiations. My Lords, I have no faith in the Prussian Government as a Government; and, if we were about to enter into an alliance with that Power, I should be disposed to address these words of caution to my noble friend opposite—"Hume tu, Romane, caveto."

These facts are in circulation in the country: if there were others in the possession of Lord Clarendon, rendering Prussia less open to blame, he would listen to them with the utmost candour and attention. At the close of his speech, Lord Lyndhurst expressed his satisfaction at the appointment of Lord John Russell as negotiator at Vienna; and his confidence in the energy and resources of this country, which will place us in a higher position even than that from which we have lately declined. Our motto should be "Nil desperandum."

The Earl of CLARENDON did not rise to reply to Lord Lyndhurst, with any intention of becoming the apologist of Prussia. It was melancholy to see a State entitled by position, population, and intelligence to take her place among the great Powers of Europe, voluntarily descending from that rank by a course of policy contrary to the true interests of the nation, and which might be characterised as neither European, German, nor Prussian. Still, however eccentric her course might be, he yet entertained hopes that she would not persist in trampling on the feelings of her subjects, but that she would at last awaken to the remembrance that she was a great Power, and that she would throw in her lot with the rest of civilised Europe. At present Prussia was in an isolated and false position, and therefore powerless. From this position it was the wish of England, France, and Austria that she should be delivered. No pains should be spared to attain this result by friendly advances, made with every regard to the honour and dignity of a great and independent Power.

HUNGARY AND POLAND.

On the same day, in the House of Commons, Lord WILLIAM GRAHAM inquired whether the Austrian Ambassador had called upon Lord Clarendon for any explanation of the words stated to have been used by a member of the Administration (Sir Robert Peel), that "no settlement of the Eastern question would be satisfactory unless Hungary and Poland were restored."

Lord PALMERSTON did not reply in terms to the question as put; but, remarking that it referred to the

policy of the Government, said he would give the fullest information.

The Austrian Government know, and have all along known, that the Government of Great Britain would consider it a great misfortune to Europe if Hungary were separated from the Austrian empire; because I consider the Austrian empire as an aggregate body in the centre of Europe, to be an essential element in the balance of power of Europe. The Austrian Government, therefore, have no doubt as to what are the policy and views of the Government in regard to Hungary.

With respect to Poland—(Considerable laughter was here caused by a slight pause in Lord Palmerston's reply, and by the inexpressible manner in which he continued)—I have no hesitation in stating my own opinion that the kingdom of Poland, as at present constituted, and as at present occupied, is a standing menace to Germany. It is for the Powers of Germany to determine how far they may think that constitution of Poland is or is not dangerous to them; and whether, under circumstances which may lead them into war with Russia, they will think it for their interests to endeavour to change that position of affairs. But, undoubtedly, no stipulations in regard to a new arrangement of Poland form a part of those points upon which her Majesty's Government are now, in concert with the Government of France, negotiating at Vienna. These negotiations are carried on upon the basis of the four points, which have been frequently published and are well known to everybody; but the two Powers have reserved to themselves the right, according to circumstances, and according to the events of the war, if hostilities, either owing to a prolongation or a rupture of negotiations, should continue—they have, I say, reserved to themselves the right of adding in future to these four points any other stipulations which they may think essential for the future security of Europe. At present, however, the negotiations are going on upon these four points; and that is the policy of the Government with respect to this subject.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

On the question of the adjournment of the House to Thursday, Mr. ROEBUCK inquired whether Newfoundland would receive the same form of responsible government as that conceded to Canada; and whether the complaints of the people of Newfoundland with regard to their governor will lead to the removal of that official?

Lord PALMERSTON said that the Government intend to keep faith with the colony of Newfoundland. Steps have been taken to fulfil the promise made by the Duke of Newcastle, and elections have been ordered with the view of effecting an enlargement of the popular assembly; and the nomination of those who are to constitute the Second Chamber will be deferred until the representative body is chosen. As to the second question, Lord Palmerston said the House would not expect him to state the intentions of the Government as to the removal, or continuance in office, or exchange of Colonial governors.

Mr. ROEBUCK gave notice, that on an early day he would present a petition from the Assembly of Newfoundland, and would upon that occasion take the sense of the House upon the propositions contained in that petition.

OPENING OF THE BRITISH MUSEUM AND NATIONAL GALLERY ON SUNDAYS.

Sir JOSHUA WALMSLEY moved,—

That it would promote the moral and intellectual improvement of the working-classes of this metropolis, if the collections of natural history and of art, in the British Museum and the National Gallery, were open to the public inspection after morning service on Sundays.

He dwelt upon the social advantages of such a measure; and with regard to the religious bearing of the question, he thought it would be found that the balance of opinion greatly inclined to the belief that, so far from lowering the standard of religious truth, it would elevate it. He could cite, he said, the opinions of wise and pious men that, so far from desecrating the Sabbath, such a mode of visual education would hallow that day; and he read testimonies from several persons (including clergymen) to that effect.

The motion was seconded by Mr. BRIGGS, who argued that the effect of the measure would be to raise, refine, and civilise the working-classes, which would be, in his opinion, a great religious gain, while he found that in the Christian Scriptures there was no written injunction, or command, or obligation, to keep the first day of the week as a Jewish Sabbath, or to keep it as a Sabbath at all.

Mr. J. L. DAVIES opposed the motion, reading opinions of clergymen of an opposite tenor to those cited by Sir J. Walmsley.

Mr. DRUMMOND said he should consider this as a question, not of the people's day, but of the Lord's-day, as it had been held by the universal consent of the Christian world. Whatever texts might say, the principle was that a seventh part of every man's time and a tenth of his income were due to God.

He felt a great difficulty in saying what ought to be the duty of members, when he saw them night after night entertaining questions for refusing support to the national Churches,—those churches which were for the benefit almost exclusively of the people,—and then substituting for churches, which they would not keep in repair, the going to the British Museum to see the gentlemen just arrived from Nineveh—red men with green beards. (Laughter.) At the same time, he thought there was a great distinction between what every man might feel in his own conscience right to do upon a Sunday, and what it was the duty of the nation.

The Marquis of BLANDFORD considered that the religious ground was that on which this question should be argued, and that this was a subtle mode of introducing the thin end of the wedge for the desecration of the institution of the Sabbath, which was to be distinguished from the seventh day, meaning a day of rest. The sanctity of Sunday had been the ground upon which the Legislature had required that public-houses should be closed on Sundays at certain hours, whence so much good had resulted, but this measure would destroy the sanctity of that day. He entered his hearty protest against the motion.

Mr. APSLEY PELLATT said that opening public places on Sundays is taking a wrong course to enlighten the minds of the working-classes. They are in favour of early closing, a half-holiday on Saturdays, and less Sunday trading. He moved as an amendment, that the British Museum and the National Gallery should be open every day in the week, and at all events on Saturdays and Mondays.

Mr. KINNAIRD believed that the motion would lead to results which would finally deprive the working man of his day of rest. This was a question for the working-men, and the result would be that they would have to give seven days' labour for six days' wages. (Opposition cheers.) This result might be seen carried out in Paris, for there the working-classes laboured every day in the week, and the same effect would follow here if the Government withdrew its protecting arm from the incapacity of individuals.

Lord STANLEY considered that the objections to the motion were founded upon respectable prejudices. All which he had heard or read were built upon two grounds—first, the sanctity of the Sabbath-day; second, that by opening these places unnecessary labour was imposed upon Government officers. With regard to the first, he thought the mover and seconder had conceded too much. It was a false theory to suppose a necessary antagonism between things secular and things sacred. Intellectual and moral improvement was in itself a part of religion. He admitted the sanctity of the Sabbath and the value of that institution. But why was it valuable? Not as an end, but as the means to an end—namely, moral and religious improvement. The leisure of the working man during the week was small.

He believed that this exclusive appropriation of the day of rest, in popular opinion, to subjects exclusively theological, lay infinitely more than the want of education at the bottom of that ignorance which they all lamented—(cheers)—and he believed that, unless they applied some remedy in this direction, all educational measures, even such as that which his right honourable friend had lately introduced, would be comparatively useless. (Hear, hear.) Was it asserted that the objects proposed by this resolution would necessarily interfere with the performance of any religious duties? Did it follow that the opening of a picture gallery or a museum upon a Sunday, afternoon would take away from the attendance at churches? What was done now? They allowed Hampton Court and Kew Gardens to be opened, they encouraged the inhabitants of the town upon their only holiday to breathe the fresh air of the country, but the argument of desecration of the Sabbath applied much more to the admission to those places, as a visit to them must occupy a whole day, than to the proposals contained in this resolution. This was not, however, a mere question of what had been permitted by previous legislation. Did honourable gentlemen mean to apply to themselves the same rules which they applied to working-men? (Cheers.) If any gentleman would say that they passed the Sabbath in such a manner that they should regard it as a comparatively profane occupation to visit a museum or to look at pictures, he would not dispute the question with them. (Hear, hear.) Although even in that case he might observe that there was a wide difference between doing that which we ourselves thought right, between obeying the dictates of our own consciences, and endeavouring to force others to obey them. (Hear, hear.) But to forge on other persons, especially if they belonged to a class not represented in that House, the rules of a morality more strict than we ourselves practised, did not appear to him to be conduct which had in it much of religion or of honesty. (Cheers.)

Lord Stanley dwelt upon the tendency of the lower classes to debasing habits, and to the vice of drunkenness, which could not be cured by prohibitive legislation; they must be met by furnishing intellectual recreation. He should vote for the resolution.

Mr. F. BALL, in opposing the motion, expressed his regret at the speech of Lord Stanley, which he considered to be opposed to all true religion and adverse to the best interests of the community at large.

Mr. GOULBURN, in speaking of the amendment, said that the British Museum was open to all classes on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, and it was considered, from the testimony of persons who were well qualified to form an opinion on the subject, that Monday was the day on which the working-classes could most conveniently visit establishments of this description. On Tuesdays and Thursdays admission to the Museum was restricted to artists, and on Saturdays the institution was closed to the public in order that the rooms might be cleaned; but he would undertake to say, on behalf of the trustees, that, if the arrangements to which some honourable gentlemen had alluded for giving more liberty to the working-classes on Saturday afternoons were carried out, there would be no indisposition on their part to open the Museum on Saturdays, so far, at least, as it could be done consistently with the necessary arrangements for properly cleaning the apartments. (Hear, hear.) The House would form an erroneous conclusion if they supposed that the resolution was confined to opening the two places named: it involved, upon the showing of the mover and seconder, a very great extension of the principle of admitting public amusements to be part of the business of the Lord's-day. It was the first step to an authorised desecration of the Sabbath, which he maintained to be a great moral evil, and he resisted the motion because it would put a resolution of that House in direct collision with the law of the land.

Mr. W. J. FOX, in supporting the motion, regretted that the question had taken so much of a theological turn, as that House was not a fit body to argue a question on purely theological grounds. But this question did not involve such grounds. Sabbatarianism was never the doctrine of the early Christian Church, nor even of the early Protestant Church. It was the doctrine of a minority of the Christian world. The injunction, "Do no work on the Sabbath-day," was egregiously violated, and most of all by the rich and intelligent.

Lord PALMERSTON objected both to the motion and the amendment. All agree that it is highly necessary to encourage the respectful observance of the Sabbath; and in proportion as that observance prevails, we may expect to see a people moral and well educated, or the reverse.

My opinion is that Sunday ought to be a day of rest, of devotion, and of cheerful and innocent recreation. (Hear, hear.) To enforce that strict observance of Sunday for which some persons contend, is obviously impossible. That no work should be done on Sunday would stop the whole movement of social existence: but it is impossible for any law to define—and I think it would be inexpedient for Parliament to attempt to pass such a law—the precise degree to which that principle may properly be carried. That must be left to the conscience of each individual. (Hear.) Each man must be left to determine, according to his own position and circumstances, to what degree he can combine the ordinary and necessary occupations of life with what he considers the proper observance of Sunday. But when a matter is brought before Parliament in regard to which the religious feelings of a great portion of the community are deeply affected, it is highly inexpedient that Parliament should by any vote set itself in opposition to that which is the religious feeling of the people. I think Parliament would be doing an injudicious act if, by any vote of its own, or by any resolution, it should lead the country to think that it is less mindful of those religious principles which ought to govern the conduct of all men than the great mass of the community themselves are.

Mr. BARROW and Mr. HEYWOOD having spoken, Sir J. WALMSLEY replied, offering to withdraw his motion. The members opposed to it, however, insisted on recording their votes, and a division took place.

For the original motion 48
Against 235

Majority against 187

Mr. PELLATT said, after the pledge given by the right honourable gentleman (Mr. Goulburn), he would withdraw his amendment.

Mr. GOULBURN said, he had given no pledge whatever (laughter).

The amendment was then withdrawn.

THE COUNT OUT OF THURSDAY.

On Thursday, on thirty members being present at four o'clock, the House was adjourned till the following day. The following stood first on the list of motions for that evening:—

Mr. PELLATT—Interment Acts: Select Committee to inquire into the operation of the Acts regulating interments in parochial, proprietary, and other cemeteries.

The following members were present when the House was counted out:—Sir James Anderson, James Bell, Blackman, Baxter, Cheetham, Clay, Cardwell, Geo. Duncan, Colonel Dunne, Dunlop, Wm. Ewart, French, Fergusson, Harcourt, Heywood, Miall, Michell, Maher, Dr. Mitchell, Sir George Pechell, Pellatt, Pugh, Thorneley, Vernon, Walmsley, Oliveira, Clifford, Mahon, Wilkinson.

MANUFACTURE OF PAPER—LIMITED LIABILITY.

In the House of Lords, on Thursday, the Earl of DERBY called attention to a number of specimens of paper, which he stated were manufactured from fibrous substances now growing waste in the West Indies, by a gentleman in Manchester, who had procured a patent. In order, however, to prosecute the manufacture with success, it would be necessary that the company working the patent should have the privilege of limited liability. They had made an application to the Board of Trade in October last, but no decision had been come to, and therefore he asked whether Government intended to bring forward this session a measure for the adoption of the principle of limited liability.

Lord STANLEY, of Alderley, stated that a measure, with the view of amending the law of partnership with respect to the principle of limited liability, was in preparation, and it would be introduced as soon as possible.

Lord REDFERN suggested that the patent laws should at the same time be revised.

LAW REFORM.

In the House of Peers, on Friday, Lord BROUGHAM called attention to the criminal procedure of this country by the law and practice of England. There are a large class of gross moral offences, such as frauds, which are not crimes at all by the present law. The tribunals called police-courts are misnamed; for it is a misnomer to call an officer a metropolitan police-magistrate who is not metropolitan, has nothing to do with the police, and is not, properly speaking, a magistrate at all. Their civil business should be transferred to the county-courts, and they should have power to liberate persons on their own recognisances. The constabulary of the country is deficient; there ought to be not only a large but a uniform constabulary. The difference of fees in different parts of the country is greater than he could have believed possible—varying from 2*l.* 4*s.* to 6*l.* 13*s.* Fixed salaries should be substituted for these fees. When the offence has been traced, and the offender secured, we have no public prosecutor to put the criminal procedure in motion; and he stated many facts showing the necessity for such an officer. He gave several specific instances to show that the grand jury do not at all supply the want of a public prosecutor; their treatment of bills being subject to every kind of accident and bungling, while no safeguard is required against abuse in the execution of the law, as it would be by a public prosecutor; and, as positive proof, he mentioned the example of the Procurator-fiscal in Scotland. He contrasted the long period which elapses in some parts of England before a prisoner is put on his trial, with the expedition in delivering the gaols of the metropolitan county, and urged such moderate increase in the number of the judges as would enable them to hold four circuits instead of two in the year. At the conclusion of his speech, Lord Brougham alluded feelingly to a remark he once

made to Lord Denman on a similar occasion, that such discussions partook of a testamentary character: he felt it his duty to bequeath these observations to their Lordships and the country before he was called hence, or before he should sink, as he was tending daily more and more to sink, into a state of feebleness incident to an advanced age.

The LORD CHANCELLOR limited his remarks to a general concurrence in the views of Lord Brougham. The police should be uniform; public prosecutors are good in "the abstract," but it was clear to him that in practice there must be at least 500 of them, to be of any good; and it is not only desirable but practicable to increase the frequency of sessions and assizes.

BURIAL GROUNDS.

In the House of Commons, on Friday, on the motion that the House at its rising adjourn till Monday,

Mr. PELLATT said he considered the question as to the burial of the dead so important that he thought it right to take this opportunity to ask the Government how they intended to deal with the 60,000 deaths that annually occurred in London. There were but eight cemeteries in the neighbourhood of London, which could not take more than 20,000 annually. There had been 500 burial grounds closed in the country and 150 within the bills of mortality. He considered that the Dissenters had been unjustly dealt with, in regard to consecrated ground. In one case that had come under his knowledge a charge was made of 5*l.* for interment in consecrated ground, out of which 2*l.* was paid to the clergyman; and the same charge was made to the Dissenters, though they had not the services of the clergyman. He thought that the burial boards were sowing the seeds of dissension. In France and Germany there was no distinction whatever in the national cemeteries. Not so in England, for the law said expressly that a Dissenter should not be buried in consecrated ground, and therefore they were excommunicated in Protestant England. Ireland had an Act of Parliament, passed in the reign of George III., by which the cemeteries were common to all. If the rector refused to bury, he must state his grounds of refusal to the bishop and the Lord-Lieutenant. Practically, there was no exclusion whatever. Dissenters had no objection to consecrated ground; they thought that consecration did neither good nor evil, but they thought it right that they should have the liberty of burying their friends in consecrated ground, though they did happen to be Dissenters. In many parts of the country great inconvenience had been caused by the closing of burial grounds, and in some cases the bodies had to be conveyed many miles. Then there was another question—the question of compensation to the owners of burial grounds. There was a person named Jones, whose father left him a freehold (New Bunhill Fields) which was used as a burial ground, and brought him in 500*l.* a year; and now, the ground being closed, he was in a state of penury. There was another case at Manchester. Dr. Burton erected a church at considerable expense, and he had a burial ground which brought him in from 400*l.* to 500*l.* a year in fees. All at once it was closed, because it was within the limits of the borough of Manchester. But was that a reason for robbing a man of his rights? In such cases there ought to be compensation. With regard to consecration, he thought it ought to be taken altogether out of the hands of the bishops.

Lord PALMERSTON said the honourable member had asked where the dead were to be buried. Now, he would tell him, in the first place, that no burial ground had been shut up in the metropolis unless upon a report showing that it was actually dangerous to the inhabitants of the neighbourhood. A great number of the parishes had at considerable expense provided new burial grounds, and some others had made arrangements with the cemetery company at Woking. He had no reason to suppose that either in London or the country any difficulty would be found in finding spaces for burial, if parishes only took the proper course.

Mr. FITZROY said he had had some experience in the working of the new act, and he was in possession of some facts that would have controverted the statements of his honourable friend; but as his honourable friend had taken the House by surprise in bringing the subject forward to-night, he was not at that moment prepared with the documents. He was prepared yesterday, if the honourable member could have persuaded the House to make a House to hear him. Of course, it was impossible to carry these matters accurately in one's head, but he would state some facts from memory. Now, with regard to the provision for the interment of the dead. In the first place, cemeteries had been provided by the City for the whole of the parishes in the City of London, comprising a population of 120,000. The large parishes of St. Marylebone, St. Pancras, St. George's, Hanover-square, Lambeth, St. Margaret's, and St. Anne's, which contained an aggregate population amounting to 550,000 persons, had also provided new cemeteries. In the country the measure had also been very extensively accepted, and though he could not then repeat the list which he had prepared for use on the former evening, he might say that there were no fewer than seventy places which had already obtained ground under the act. (Hear, hear.) In short, he believed that the measure had worked to the complete satisfaction of the community at large. (Hear, hear.) Nor could he see what grounds of complaint the Dissenters had under the parochial system. They had to pay in precisely the same proportion, for it was one of the provisions of the act that the expense of providing the new grounds should be paid out of the poor-rate, to which all parties contributed alike. The question of compensation was not a new one; it had been fully discussed in the year 1852, upon the motion of his right honour

able friend the Chairman of the Board of Works, who proposed to provide compensation out of the Consolidated Fund. So averse was the House, however, to the scheme, that the right honourable gentleman was not able to find so much as a teller for his motion. (Hear, hear.) Besides, was it fair to compensate persons for having so long kept up a dangerous nuisance? (Hear, hear.) Nothing could be more unwise than to unsettle people's minds by inducing them to believe that fresh legislation was intended; and as no complaints had been made by parties who had carried the act into execution, he (Mr. Fitzroy) hoped that no further steps would be taken on the subject.

Mr. HADFIELD by no means thought that the subject was closed, and he considered that the House ought to be much obliged to his honourable friend for having taken so much trouble to bring the subject before them. His honourable friend had in effect been counted out twice upon this motion. (A laugh.)

Mr. MALINS had had many applications made to him by clergymen who had accepted benefices within the metropolis on the understanding that they were to receive certain emoluments for the support of their families, and whose income had been seriously diminished by the operation of the act. For instance, one reverend gentleman had been appointed to a living of 700*l.* a year; and had insured his life, and made provision for his family, on the supposition that that income would be secured to him. The effect of the act, however, had been to cut down his stipend to 300*l.* a year, and he was thus reduced to a state of penury. The clergy were anxious to know whether it was intended to make them any compensation; and certainly it seemed right that, as the measure was passed for the public benefit, the public should bear the loss.

Lord PALMERSTON remarked, in reply, that none of these churchyards had been closed until they had been completely filled; and that therefore it was the duty of the parish, if of any body, to compensate the clergy for the loss of income they had sustained. The subject then dropped.

EDUCATION IN SCOTLAND.

The LORD-ADVOCATE moved for leave to bring in a bill to provide for the education of the people in Scotland. Adverting to the failure of his bill of last year, he now brought forward a measure the same in principle, he said, under circumstances which entitled him to expect that he should upon this occasion be more successful. The recent speech of Sir J. Pakington, in introducing his Education Bill, showed that there was an earnest feeling throughout the country as to the absolute necessity of Parliament's girding up itself to this great work; and it showed further the impossibility of maintaining that the education of the people was dangerous to the institutions of the country, or that the people could not be properly educated without the intervention of the Established Church. In his bill he (the Lord-Advocate) proposed, in the first place, to provide for the supply of school statistics, which would indicate the districts where the greatest mental darkness prevailed and facilitate the application of remedies. In considering the educational scheme he proposed, a preliminary question arose as to the superintendence of the Established Church. Sir J. Pakington did not propose such superintendence in England, and, looking at the circumstances of Scotland, he proposed to do away with the superintendence of the Established Church over the schools.

There was in England no compulsory educational system, but in Scotland, ever since the Reformation, there had been a compulsory system of education. Now, he would ask whether honourable gentlemen opposite would this year take the course they adopted last year, of refusing to allow this measure to pass a second reading except on condition that the superintendence of the Established Church should be continued with respect to the parochial schools of Scotland? The right hon. baronet (Sir J. Pakington) had proposed a system under which the superintendence of the Established Church was dispensed with, and the schools in the various districts were to be in connexion with those denominations which formed the majority in such districts. If a plan of this kind were adopted in Scotland what would be the result? There were sixteen counties of Scotland in which, taking the number of members of the Established Church and of the Free Church alone, such a proposal as that of the right honourable baronet would place the education of the people entirely in the hands of the Free Church. There were only two counties in which the members of the Established Church were in an absolute majority, and in thirty-two counties the members of the United Presbyterian denomination and the Free Church numbered more than the members of the Establishment. The question to be decided was, whether, after such a scheme as he had referred to had been proposed for England, it was possible to maintain that while seven-eighths of the people of Scotland agreed in creed, the system of education should be left in the hands of a body including only one-third of the population? As Scotland was agreed upon this matter, and had voted in the proportion of three to one upon it, and as every borough member in Scotland had supported it, he asked the House now, in common consistency, if they did not think it desirable in England to give a preponderance to a majority, not to saddle the people of Scotland with the preponderance of a minority. (Hear, hear.) It was altogether absurd to go on arguing this question year after year, while the people were starving for lack of education; and he proposed, therefore, to settle it by doing away with the superintendence of the Established Church, and by giving no sectarian advantage to any class. Then came the question of religious education. He need scarcely say that he had been an advocate for secular education, but that the last thing which he would wish to see would be the exclusion of religious education. He knew the people of Scotland well; he knew the thing which they had most at heart was religious teaching, and he repeated that the last thing which he should wish to see would be the exclusion of religious education from their schools. At the same time, he should prefer a secular education to none, but it was

needless to propose a "secular education," so called, in Scotland; and when, practically, the same theory of religious education was taught in nearly every school in Scotland; he thought that it was absurd to raise the question of religious differences. (Hear.) There was one clause in the bill of last year, known as the "denominational" clause, which he proposed to omit, because it had been very much misunderstood, and had given rise to some unjust criticism. The parish schools would be raised, by the bill, in point of salary and condition; and there would be power vested in the heritors to throw the expense of the management, if they chose, upon the parish. He proposed to make it compulsory upon towns, whenever the inspectors reported that they were required, to establish schools; and in the country, whenever they reported that the schools were insufficient, he proposed to give the right of assessment, in order to render them more useful. Substantially, the Government were, in the general public schools, to provide one-half, while the assessment produced the other; and in parochial schools the heritors were to furnish 3*4**l.*, and the Government 16*l.* He desired to put down all sectarian differences, and he trusted that the next generation, at all events, would be taught to forget the animosities which had sprung up in the past. He hoped that the experiment might be tried, and, as there were many advantages in Scotland which did not exist in England, Scotland might perhaps set the example, and show to other countries that, notwithstanding shades of difference in religious opinions, it was quite possible to establish a good system of Governmental education. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. STIRLING pointed out the difference between the educational systems of Scotland and England, and deprecated a rash intermeddling with the parochial system of the former country. He recommended the Lord-Advocate to follow the opinion of Lord Brougham, expressed in the House of Lords last year, that the question of education in Scotland should be the subject of two bills—one for the towns, and the other for the country.

Mr. BAXTER, the new member for the Montrose burghs, then delivered his maiden speech:

He commenced by saying that the people of Scotland regarded the question of a new system of education for that country as of the most vital importance, and he was much mistaken if the proposition which had just been submitted to their consideration was not hailed with the greatest satisfaction as one brought forward in a free, enlightened, and liberal spirit, and as framed also by no unskilful hand. (Hear.) He did not wish to say a single disrespectful word concerning the present parochial schools, but at the same time the House must recollect that, since these schools came into operation, the circumstances of Scotland had undergone a great change, that a decided majority of the inhabitants no longer attended the Established Church; and it could not be reasonably expected, therefore, that the people of that country could give their support to such a measure as had been introduced by the honourable member for Perthshire (Mr. Stirling), which was a mere extension or perpetuation of the existing system. (Hear.) It was true, as the honourable member had stated, that in most respects the teaching in those schools was not sectarian; but, as long as schools were under the surveillance of the Presbytery, was it not reasonable to expect that they would be always looked upon as sectarian in a country where the *odium theologium* prevailed to such an extent as in Scotland, and where the inhabitants attached so much importance to doctrinal and theological differences? (Hear, hear.) It had been stated that there should be one system for the town and another for the country, but in the course of his experience he had never before heard such a statement made, and in his opinion, the great majority of the Scotch people required one general system. (Hear, hear.) Doctrinal differences existed in the country as well as in towns, but the impression on his mind was, that any national plan, to meet with the approval of the people of Scotland, should be so framed as to get rid of sectarian tests and exclusive control. He himself, as a Dissenter, wished to say that he deprecated the course which had been taken by some persons of the same polemics as himself, who, from love of an abstract theory, differed from the views of those who understood the wants and feelings of the people of Scotland far better than they did. (Hear, hear.) He entertained an earnest belief and a firm hope that, notwithstanding what had fallen from the honourable member for Perthshire, honourable members opposite would receive a measure so liberally framed in a liberal and candid spirit, and would offer no opposition to its being passed into law. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. C. BRUCE observed that the existing system of parochial education in Scotland had produced such beneficial effects that, before it was destroyed, it should be clearly shown that the proposed substitute was a better one.

Lord ELCHO said that last year almost two-thirds of the Scotch members voted in favour of the bill of the Lord-Advocate, and that proved that the people of Scotland, unless representative government was a farce, were in favour of the bill of the right honourable gentleman. When the question came to be discussed and a division taken upon it, he hoped the English members would bear this fact in mind, and endeavour to pay some respect to the wishes and feelings of the people of Scotland. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. JOHN M'GREGOR, Lord DUNCAN, Mr. COWAN, and Mr. BOUVIER spoke in favour of the bill, and Mr. SCOTT against it.

Mr. WALPOLE suggested, whether the Lord-Advocate might not accomplish all the objects he had in view, and at the same time conciliate opponents, by drawing a distinction, as recommended by Lord Brougham, between the education required for the rural districts and that necessary for the larger towns, without altogether subverting a system which had subsisted for so long a period.

Lord PALMERSTON congratulated the House upon the tone and temper of the discussion, and trusted that, when the bill itself was discussed, the approximation would be still nearer. Upon the general principles there seemed to be an acquiescence; all agreed that some improvement must be made in the educational system of Scotland, and the plan of the Lord-Advocate, which proposed

not only to improve the character and constitution of the schools, but to lay a foundation for a better distribution, was preferable to that contained in Mr. Stirling's bill.

Mr. SERJEANT SHEE thought that there could be little difficulty in framing a general measure of education for a country in which ninety-five per cent. of the whole population were of one religion. He trusted, however, that the learned lord would so shape his bill as to secure the support of the remainder—the Roman Catholics, who, in Edinburgh, Glasgow, Banffshire, Aberdeenshire, and part of Morayshire, formed a numerous and important minority.

Mr. HASTIE (Glasgow) said, beside the Established Church and Free Church, there was another important body in Scotland, called the United Presbyterians. They were generally disposed to support the bill of the learned lord last year, but there were one or two points on which they felt some objection. One was, the constitution of the Educational Board, which they considered to be too much nominated by the Government, and he trusted the same error would not be imported into the present bill. He was glad to learn that the denominational plan, which was likewise very much objected to by many religious persons, was not to be introduced into the bill now proposed. He believed that the bill would be received with favour by a large body in Scotland.

After a reply from the LORD-ADVOCATE, leave was given to bring in the bill.

INTRAMURAL BURIALS (IRELAND) BILL.

Upon the third reading of this bill, Lord NAAS called attention to a defect in the measure. Power was given to the Lord-Lieutenant to prohibit burials in large towns in Ireland, but there was no provision for supplying the place of the burial-grounds so closed.

Mr. HOBBSMAN thought it was desirable that some such provision should be inserted, and would take the matter into consideration.

The bill was then read a third time.

On the motion for the passing of the bill, Mr. VANCE moved a clause for compensating clerks, sextons, and beadles for the loss of fees.

Lord PALMERSTON thought it was very plain that no man could on any right principle plead a vested interest in that which was a positive nuisance. (Hear, hear.) The ground on which a place of burial was condemned as a nuisance was that it contained organic matter which was injurious to the community, and it was no reason that persons should be compensated because the profit which they derived from an excessive use of the ground was made to cease. In most cases the parishes provided new burying grounds, and at these the same fees were payable, so that no loss was sustained; but, even if it were otherwise, that would be no reason why they should be called on to give compensation. (Hear, hear.)

The clause was then negatived, and the bill was passed.

THE TRANSPORT SERVICE.

On the order for going into Committee of Supply.

Mr. W. LINDSAY called attention to our administrative system, with especial reference to the transport service. After observing that 8,663,000*l.* had been voted for this service, and that at present 250,000 tons of shipping, steam and sail, were engaged as transports, he proceeded to show that, in his opinion, the money of the country had been wasted through the want of a well-regulated system. With this view he entered into computations and details to prove that unnecessary delays had taken place to such extent that, he asserted, out of 8,000,000*l.* at least 2,000,000*l.* had been lost to this country from this cause alone. The evil, he said, arose from the system, the whole of which was radically wrong. He related instances of delay at the Admiralty offices, observing that this was a state of things to which the country would not submit, and which had disgraced us in the eyes of other nations. He passed to our administrative affairs generally, describing the *nonchalant* manner in which he had been treated by some of the Government clerks, of which he gave the following illustration:—

There was another account—he did not remember in which particular department, but he thought it was in the Admiralty—for upwards of 2,000*l.* The account was rendered, and for six weeks it was not passed. The loss of interest on 2,000*l.* for six weeks was a consideration, so he determined one morning, instead of coming in early to business, to wait for Government hours, and to get to the Admiralty by half-past ten. It was a fine summer morning, and after a good deal of jostling, for no one knew him—and if they had, perhaps, they would not have cared—he got into a room in which were three desks, and at one of the desks was a gentleman, seemingly very much at his ease, for he sat on an easy chair, with his leg cocked over the arm of another easy chair, whistling to himself the tune of "Peter Dick," keeping time to it on the desk with a ruler. (Laughter.) He walked up to the gentleman and said, "Can you tell me anything of this account?" His reply was, "No; I can't say. I don't know anything about it. It has not come to me yet." While speaking to him, in walked another gentleman, who should have been the occupier of one of the empty desks, with his hat cocked on one side, and a gold-headed cane in his hand. (Laughter.) He did not object to gentlemen cocking their hats on one side, or carrying gold-headed canes, if they would attend to their business. (Hear.) Addressing the gentleman who was whistling "Peter Dick," the new arrival said, "I'm off by the eleven o'clock boat to Gravesend. I don't suppose I shall be back before four. You'll keep me all right." (Laughter.) The gentleman who had come in then departed, and his whistling friend then said that, perhaps, the account was in his charge. Upon that he replied, "I hope, then, when it reaches you you will not be going down to Gravesend;" and to that observation having received rather an impertinent answer, with which it was not necessary to trouble the House, he left the office; but as he did so, he could not help saying to himself, "I hope the time may come when I shall be able to assist in rooting out these Peter Dicks—(a laugh)—who waste so

much treasure, and who have aided in bringing so much disgrace upon the country." (Hear, hear.) But what was the original source whence these evils had arisen? It was the existing system of patronage which created these Peter Dicks, and there was too many of them, both high and low; but the time had arrived when such men must be rooted out. The country wanted, and it would insist upon having, competent men employed in their places.

Sir J. GRAHAM defended the official system of the Admiralty, challenging a comparison of the navy accounts with those of any merchant's office in the city of London. He admitted that the number of transports employed had been very great; but the House would recollect, he said, that during the last twelve months from 58,000 to 60,000 British troops had been conveyed 3,000 miles, with 6,000 horses, a large train of artillery, and all the forage and rations; that 15,000 French troops had been transported from the south of France, with horses, and 40,000 Turks from Varna to the Crimea, besides 14,000 men to the Baltic. Mr. Lindsay had spoken of delay, but prudence dictated that means should always be at hand to re-embark the troops, if necessary. On the whole, considering what had been done, he thought the House would come to a different conclusion from that gentleman in relation to the transport service and naval operations.

Mr. ALCOCK, in drawing attention to the state of the war in the Black Sea, urged that if we had taken Anapa a year ago, we should have had an important military basis and the advantage of procuring food and horses from the people of the Caucasus, who would have been only too glad to sell it us.

Sir S. NORTHGOTE pressed the Government to lose no time in introducing improvements into the civil service. By a proper system for regulating not only the admission into office and the promotion in the offices, but the distribution of work, there would be not merely greater efficiency, but a saving of money.

Captain SCOBELL commented upon various instances of mismanagement in the transport service.

Mr. CAYLEY, after animadverting somewhat severely upon Sir J. Graham's defence of the administrative system, corroborated the averments of Mr. Lindsay by mentioning several specific instances of alleged profuse and wasteful expenditure in the transport service, and expressed a doubt whether there was much security that under the new board things would be much improved. He could not come to any other conclusion, he said, than that the great calamities which had happened to the country were brought home to the transport service under the late Admiralty.

Mr. BENTINCK trusted that one of the first of the administrative reforms would be that of no longer placing civilians at the head of the naval and military departments.

Admiral BERKELEY made a few remarks in reply to Mr. BENTINCK and Mr. CAYLEY.

Mr. H. BROWN complained of the false system under which contracts were made in this country, where the essence of the contract was payment for time, whereas in France it was payment for services. The cost of transporting troops was three or four times that of transporting emigrants.

Colonel KNOX charged the misery of the army to the incapacity of the persons connected with the transport service, and Admiral Boxer as the head of the evil.

Sir C. WOOD made a brief reply to preceding speakers who had assailed the transport department. The detention of the transports abroad was in compliance with the desire of the Commander of the Forces, that they might be available for any services on the spot. No pains, he said, would be spared by the Transport Board to remedy any existing evils.

The House then went (at one o'clock) into committee of supply, but the Chairman was ordered to report progress without doing any business.

THE TREATY WITH SARDINIA.

A message from the Crown was conveyed to both Houses, on Friday night, informing Parliament of the convention, which Her Majesty, in concert with the Emperor of the French, has concluded with the King of Sardinia. The King engages to keep up a body of 15,000 men; and Her Majesty to advance him 1,000,000*l.* sterling in two instalments, one of 500,000*l.* now, and one of 500,000*l.* at the expiration of six months, by way of loan at 4 per cent., including 1 per cent. for a sinking-fund. Her Majesty has further engaged for a like advance next year, if the war should not by that time have terminated.

In the House of Lords, on Monday, a brief discussion took place on the subject, in which the Earl of CLARENDON, Lord HARDWICKE, and the Earl of SHAFTESBURY took part, after which the motion to take into consideration that document was carried unanimously.

On the same day, the Commons went into committee to consider the Queen's Message with regard to the Sardinian convention.

Lord PALMERSTON explained the circumstances under which this convention was formed. The country had engaged in a great war while our armies were placed upon a peace establishment, and from our constitution the number of our troops could not be rapidly augmented. Various expedients were adopted to overcome this difficulty, and among others a treaty was formed with Sardinia, by which that country engaged to furnish 15,000 troops on condition that this country should advance her by way of loan the sum of 1,000,000*l.* now, and another million if the war should last for another twelve months, the Sardinian Government paying four per cent. interest, one per cent. being considered as a sinking fund. He praised the gallantry of the Sardinian troops and the chivalry of the Sardinian monarchs, but he believed no page in their history was more brilliant than the present. Placed in no imminent danger themselves, they had not hesitated to take part in the great struggle of right

against might. He hoped the course Sardinia had now taken in ranging herself on the same side, not only with England and France, but also with Austria, would tend to allay the unfortunate irritation which had long prevailed between her and the latter Power. And when he contrasted the admirable internal Government of Sardinia with the far different state of things which prevailed in the southern part of Italy, he trusted that the sympathy and countenance she now received from England and France would have a beneficial influence upon Naples and Rome. A resolution sanctioning the conclusion of the treaty, and authorising the advance of money to Sardinia under the terms specified therein, was put from the chair.

Mr. DISRAELI would not assume the responsibility of opposing the resolution proposed to them, but wished to warn the House of the gravity of the proceeding. Financial operations at home, he declared, had lately assumed the character of loans in disguise, and the advance now to be granted to Sardinia might turn out to be a subsidy in disguise. Expressing his fear that the transaction would serve as the precedent for a wholesale system of subsidies, he nevertheless admitted the value of the co-operation which Sardinia promised to afford us, that assistance being rendered more especially important by the neglect and want of foresight of the home Government.

Lord PALMERSTON assured the committee that the advance of money to Sardinia constituted a *bona fide* loan, and could not in any sense be characterised as a subsidy.

Mr. E. DENISON eulogised the policy and the character of Sardinia.

Mr. BRIGHT remarked upon the many former instances in which, by some shuffling process, loans had been converted into subsidies. In the present war few or none of the other European Powers had any real interest, although the aid of several had been obtained by England and France, some from motives of interest, and some of terror. Sardinia, he believed, was among the former.

Mr. BOWYER commented upon the financial position of Sardinia, which, in his opinion, afforded no chance of our obtaining repayment of our loan.

Mr. GLADSTONE observed that Sardinia had hitherto fulfilled all her engagements with admirable punctuality. He denied Mr. Disraeli's allegations that the present transaction amounted to a subsidy, as well as that their previous operations in domestic finance had been disguised loans. The treaty now concluded with the Sardinian Government was, he considered, eminently wise and beneficial.

After some remarks from Mr. ADDERLEY, Mr. KINNAIRD, Mr. DISRAELI, Lord PALMERSTON, Mr. WALPOLE, and Mr. J. BALL,

Mr. CORDEN said he would yield to no one in admiration of the constitutional government of Sardinia, whose progress in civil and religious liberty he had long watched with intense interest, but he confessed he felt that her present step was not a wise one. He could not understand why Sardinia, which was always regarded as an equipoise to Austrian power in Italy, should be dragged into the war before Austria had fired a shot. But, more than all, he could not understand why this convention should have been entered into at a moment when the preliminary negotiations had made such progress that within a week we might have a certainty of peace. He wished to know whether the noble lord had taken the precaution of withholding the money if the expenditure were rendered unnecessary by the establishment of peace.

Lord PALMERSTON replied that, if peace were concluded soon, the Sardinian Government of course would not burthen itself with more of the loan than was absolutely necessary.

The resolution was then agreed to, and the House resumed.

NEWSPAPER STAMP BILL.

The motion for the second reading of the Newspaper Stamp Bill was prefaced by the presentation of numerous petitions in favour of the measure, many of which prayed that all printed matter should be allowed transmission through the post-office at a rate of 1*d.* for four ounces.

Mr. DEEDS moved that the further progress of the bill should be postponed until after the Chancellor of the Exchequer had made his financial statement. Finance ministers in former years had resisted all proposals to alter the newspaper stamp law, on the plea that the revenue could not afford the sacrifice of the duty. That plea he considered peculiarly urgent at the present period; and on the abstract principle, contended that the existing system of the periodical press did not exhibit any such faults or anomalies as called for immediate legislative interference.

Sir E. B. LYTON said he acknowledged something of paternity to this measure. More than twenty years ago he moved for the repeal of the taxes on knowledge, including especially the newspaper stamp; and all he had heard since that time had strengthened rather than weakened his convictions. The fear of immoral publications was much stronger then than now. But why was that objection weakened? Why, but by the multiplication of cheap publications, and because the people had had the good sense to choose the best and to reject the worst? In proportion as good books had been made cheap, bad books had retreated from circulation. (Hear, hear.) In answer to the objections which his honourable friend had condescended to make, he would ask—Is it the cheap paper that will corrupt the artisan, or the artisan that will corrupt the cheap paper? (Hear, hear.) He supported, then, the principle of the bill; but there were many of the details which he could wish to see altered. For instance, justice required the establishment of a cheap and effective law of copyright, and that the largest existing newspapers should be allowed to pass free through the post. He had no objection to the existing news-

papers; on the contrary, he admired their high intellect, their independent course of action, and, making due allowance for anonymous power, for their freedom from slander. But they were told that by a change in the law this press would be degraded to the level of the American press. Now the fact was that the American press absorbed all the available talent of the country, and in both nations he believed that the press reflected the character of the public. His principle was that in a free country they ought not to lay a tax upon the expression of political opinion. (Hear, hear.) The present state of the law created, in fact, a monopoly in the representation of political thought. In proof of this he referred to the condition of the Conservative party, largely composed of the educated and intelligent classes, constituting a majority in this House, and yet there was no party in the country so meagrely represented in the newspapers. He was satisfied that if this duty were removed, many Conservative scholars would enter the field against revolutionary doctrines—many an eminent man of letters would start a paper to circulate views stamped with the authority of his own name. This, he held, would incalculably elevate the press even above its present high position. He must say he was amazed at many of the newspapers who had formerly abused country gentlemen for their arguments against free trade now arming themselves with the most antiquated weapons from the same quiver. As to the fears of revolution and blasphemy, surely the old laws against ribaldry and sedition were to remain; and, besides, he would remind the House that all revolutionary literature had corrupted the higher classes long before it reached the lower. The libellous Sunday papers were supported by the clubs and saloons, not by artisans. (Hear, hear.) It was the fashionable abbés and the fine ladies of Paris who introduced to the working-classes of Paris the revolutionary chimeras of Rousseau and the ribald infidelity of Voltaire. The objection of his honourable friend was on the ground of revenue; but he was satisfied that not a farthing would be lost if the Chancellor of the Exchequer, as he understood he intended to do, would return to the original principle of charging the postage of printed matter by weight. The number of tracts of all descriptions that would thus pass through the post would be quite enormous. But, even if it were otherwise, 200,000*l.* would not be too large a sum to give for the restoration of the majesty of English law. He knew that his honourable friend would never have made this amendment if he had not been urged on by the notable eclecticism—that firm of "Twaddle and Bugbear," who had put forward that manifesto against a change called "Reasons against Abolishing the Newspaper Stamp." He hoped, however, the Conservatives would not so simply forego their only chance of bringing their opinions before the mass of the working-classes. Let them not tell him that a penny tax was a trifle. There was once a penny daily paper called the *Spectator*, to which Addison and others contributed. A penny tax was imposed, and in one day sufficed to divorce the alliance which genius had established between mirth and virtue. On strictly Conservative principles, therefore, he gave to the main principles of this measure his most earnest and hearty support. (Cheers.)

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL explained the legal difficulties which at present surrounded the definition of the word "newspaper" as distinguished from literary and class journals, either for the purposes of taxation, prosecution, or postal privileges. Being unable to enforce the tax against all periodical publications which might strictly come under the denomination of newspapers, the Government had thought it their duty to extinguish it altogether. Sir A. Cockburn proceeded to controvert the allegation that the abolition of the stamp would deteriorate the press or vitiate the tastes of the people. The existing law of copyright, he believed, would be found sufficient to protect the proprietors of journals from piracy by dishonest contemporaries; but if on trial it proved ineffectual, there was no difficulty in devising a more stringent statute.

Sir FRANCIS BARING, in supporting the amendment, said all that was wanted was that the country should have the whole question before them, and know what new taxes were to be imposed before the present tax was removed. Suppose that a loan were in contemplation, he believed that posterity might have no real ground to complain of their being called upon to pay part of the expenses of the present war; but he thought they would have a just right to protest against our ordinary taxation being thrown upon them. He denied that the existing stamp was a tax upon information, as the postage facilities gave newspaper proprietors an advantageous bargain for their expenses.

Mr. PACKE also opposed the bill.

Mr. MIALI spoke to the following effect:—

As one of the few members of this House connected with the newspaper press, I ask the indulgence of the House whilst I make a few observations upon the bill now under discussion. On all former occasions on which this question has been brought under notice, since I have had the honour of a seat in the House, I have contented myself with giving a silent vote—and I should not have thought it necessary now to address the House, but for the course taken by a considerable and influential portion of the newspaper press, in opposition to the very principle of the two measures of successive Chancellors of the Exchequer. I wish to disclaim in the first place, any participation in their fears, that the change proposed will undermine and eventually ruin the interests of the existing press. (Hear, hear.) But I am still more anxious to disclaim, in the strongest possible manner, any concurrence in, or sympathy with, the reasons put forth by the press in justification of their opposition to the measure. (Hear, hear.) Sir, in substance and effect these reasons are precisely those which protected interests have in all times urged against the principle of unrestricted competition. (Hear, hear.) The grand palladium of the

respectability of the newspaper press in this country is assumed to be the penny stamp. Remove that, and the dignity, superiority, and intellectual and moral worth of the fourth estate of the realm will be swept away by an inundation of libellous, seditious, and blasphemous publications. "We," say the objecting newspapers—by implication, at least—"we are discharging the high duties of our order, to universal satisfaction and admiration, under the existing system. Let well alone. Unrestricted competition may answer best in other cases, but in the case of newspapers the rule does not apply. Not for our sakes only, but for the sake of the morals and religion of the British public, we must have the protection of the penny stamp." Now, Sir, I agree with the honourable baronet the member for Herts, in amazement at the course taken by so many of my brethren on this occasion. The House will remember the crushing sarcasms which they used to fling at producers of corn when, under cover of similar arguments, they claimed protection for their commodities. The House will recollect how they denounced any artificial enhancement of the people's food by fiscal arrangements—how they enforced the obligation of sacrificing, if needs be, private interests to public welfare—and how they called upon the people to listen with suspicion to the representations of men whose interests were supposed to be identified with the system of protection. (Hear, hear.) And now that the case of the landowners has become their own—now that it is proposed to remove the fiscal restrictions which give an artificial enhancement to the daily bread of the mind—these gentlemen are found to be not above the ordinary infirmities of humanity, and they reproduce without a blush arguments at which they were wont to scoff with indignation. Sir, I could not be content without at once, and publicly, as a member of this House connected with the press, washing my hands of this inconsistency. (Cheers.) No doubt, I shall be told that when I speak of the penny stamp as a protective impost, I am misrepresenting its character and effect. It is nothing more, it has been said, than a payment made for a postal service received, and for the money thus paid the State gives back an ample—a more than ample equivalent. Well, if it be really nothing more than postal facilities which the proprietors of newspapers desire to retain, they will have them to any extent they please, under this bill. (Hear, hear.) But, when probably less than one-tenth of the newspapers published pass through the post at all, why is it that the readers of the remaining nine-tenths are compelled to pay for a contingent benefit which they do not require, and why do proprietors wish to have it so? Why is it they come forward to pray that the stamp shall be obligatory equally in cases where value is not received as where it is? The only answer to this is that it acts as a protection to them from cheaper publications of the same kind—and this, indeed, is what some of them are indiscreet or candid enough to avow. (Hear, hear.) It is not necessary at this time of day—and, I might add, at this time of night—(a laugh)—to enter into any vindication of the policy of diffusing information as widely as possible—no member of this House will venture to contest it. There are now upon the table of the House two English bills for promoting the education of the poor at the public cost, and you are promised a third. There is also a Scottish bill. Spite of the expense which must follow on the adoption of any national scheme of education, spite of the religious difficulties which beset the question, a vast majority of this House concur in deeming it a matter of high public policy, to make public provision for the free education of the people. And your avowed and main motive in making this public provision is to improve the quality of the education given. You are not content that the people should be taught reading, writing, and arithmetic. You think it necessary to give them some knowledge of history, geography, and the like. Well, but what history can be so attractive, what so likely to awaken all the faculties to attention, or to impress its lessons upon the heart, as the history of passing occurrences?—(hear, hear)—or what geography is likely to be so well studied as that which is associated with the events of the day? Is the House so resolved upon creating and stimulating intellectual appetite, and yet afraid of putting a sufficiency of food within reach? Will you be at such pains and expense to awaken mental curiosity, and then deny it the easiest means of gratification? (Hear, hear.) I believe it would be found on investigation, that more than half of the adults in the kingdom who cannot read, owe their present incapacity to the fact, not that they never went to school, but that when taken from it they met with nothing which could interest them sufficiently to tempt them to a daily or a weekly exercise of their powers. The faculty has died away from want of suitable nutriment. (Hear, as.)

The honourable member proceeded to say that perhaps the House was not aware of the extent to which the penny stamp acted as a repression of newspaper literature. Now, to show that extent, he would give two or three calculations founded on the returns of the year 1854. He would take first the metropolitan daily papers; and he found that the total number of copies of the daily papers issued last year was 26,450,954; and the average daily circulation of those papers was, in round numbers, about 85,000. This, divided amongst the population of the United Kingdom, was about 1 in 320, and if the subscribers to the daily papers were divided amongst the population of England and Wales alone, supposing not a single copy of any paper went beyond their limits, there would be only 1 in 200 of the population. Now, suppose an average of 15 readers to every copy of a paper issued, then the readers of the daily papers would be about 1 in 22 of the population of the United Kingdom; or, stating it otherwise, in every 1,000 persons, 3 would be found to take in a daily paper, and about 45 had the good fortune to read one. If he next looked at the weekly metropolitan papers, there was a more favourable result. The total number of copies of them issued in 1854 was a little upwards of 32,000,000; the average weekly circulation was 620,000. This, divided amongst the population of England and Wales, would be about 1 in 29, namely, out of every 1,000 persons, about 35 would be found to take in a metropolitan weekly paper; and supposing there were 6 readers of every copy, then 800 out of every 1,000 would be found to go without reading a metropolitan weekly paper at all. What was done

in the counties? In the West Riding of Yorkshire there were 30 weekly papers published, and the population was about 1,800,000. The weekly circulation of all the local papers was 73,000; so that only one in 24 of the population took in some local paper, and rather more than three-fourths of the inhabitants did not read any paper at all. In the county of Kent there were 15 papers published, and while the population was 490,000, the average weekly circulation of the papers was 72,000, giving one newspaper subscriber only to every 68 of the inhabitants. He might carry the calculation farther, but it was enough to show the great want there was of a cheaper means of diffusing political knowledge. It might be said that those papers were read, in fact, by a large number of non-subscribers; but that very fact showed the great desire for that kind of reading. There was a graver question involved in it. About four-fifths of those who were non-subscribers to the local or daily papers, but who eagerly devoured their contents, did so at the public-house; and so, by our fiscal restrictions, we were positively throwing temptation in the way of every intelligent young man who was a reader and thinker, to indulge himself in ruinous habits of intemperance. (Hear, hear.) This was a matter that required the most serious consideration. As for the objections which had been made to this measure, it was unnecessary to advert to the financial one, for two Chancellors of the Exchequer had brought it forward; and the House, which so readily followed them whenever they proposed a great addition to our taxes, might be excused for taking their proposal, upon their own responsibility, to make a small remission, which was connected with such great national advantage. (Cheers.) It had been said that the country was satisfied with the present system. But we heard nothing, except through the medium of the proprietors of newspapers, of what the feeling of the country was; and he warned honourable gentlemen not to be led astray by the representations of their local journals, lest on the hustings they should find their vote against this measure to have given mortal offence to the Liberal electors. The agitation had not been very extensive, nor very noisy. But the desire of readier means of information on topics political, social, and moral, was so great amongst the people, that it had actually burst the bonds of the present law—it was a tendency that could not be repressed. Much had been said of the supposed deterioration of the British press from the effects of this change. If he (Mr. Miall) really thought so, it would make him pause. No one regarded with more honour the press of this country, daily or weekly, metropolitan or provincial, than he did. He had a most intimate knowledge of its character. It was his duty, for some years, regularly to read all the daily and most of the metropolitan weekly papers, besides some fifty or sixty of the provincial. And he must say that nowhere, not even in the House of Commons, was there a more brilliant and steady reflection of the manly intellect of the British people. (Cheers.) Taking the press as a whole, and admitting that it, too often, displayed some faults and inconsistencies, he would say this—that nothing like it had ever existed, ancient or modern, as a prompt, various, and vivid expression of intellectual power. (Cheers.) He, therefore, believed it would be a great calamity if anything were done that could seriously damage the character of the British newspaper. But was there really any danger of that? He believed, not the slightest. This measure would call into existence a fresh circle of readers; but those papers which now professed such fears of the result, would continue to circulate in the same sphere as before. There would be really no competition between the highest class of newspapers and the lowest; the only difference would be, that some papers would find their way into a new sphere, where none circulated now at all. There was nothing a man would change with more reluctance than his newspaper; and those who were accustomed to a mental luxury, would not willingly fall back upon inferior nutriment. He believed there was not the slightest danger that any paper would suffer from the adoption of this plan. As for piracy, that was a mere delusion; it did not interfere with the circulation of the present newspapers, for it had not been, and could not be, practised systematically, or to any extent. It was possible that in the transition from the present system of a protected newspaper trade to the contemplated system of unrestricted competition, existing journals might be exposed to temporary inconvenience and damage. But he was convinced that in this, as well as in all other instances, not only would production be immensely increased, but quality would be improved, by entire freedom. He went beyond this, however, in his expectations. As, under a system of free trade, numberless unforeseen advantages became rapidly developed, in the aggregate greater, perhaps, than the more direct benefits which human sagacity had predicted—so he anticipated that the enfranchisement of the newspaper press from fiscal shackles would lead to such an application of its resources, and such an expansion of its energies, as would, at no very remote period, astound and delight even the most sanguine advocates of this change. (Hear, hear.) Sir, the honourable member said in conclusion:—

I have unwavering faith in the good which will grow out of an unlimited diffusion of light. Leave men to converse on paper, as freely as they now do orally—give them the same liberty to communicate their thoughts by type as by tongue—trust to the power of good sense, virtue, and religion, to overmaster trash, ribaldry, and blasphemy—(hear, hear)—and, depend upon it, you will not have to regret your decision. In the intellectual, as well as in the physical world, health, growth, and manhood will come, in proportion as you give free and unrestricted access to light, air, food, and exercise. (Cheers.)

Mr. DRUMMOND held that the press, in its present state, was one of the greatest curses of the country, and he believed that the proposed measure would lower it still further. The press was a mere manufacture of political gossip, which its proprietors had as good right to set up as some honourable members had to set up a manufacture of calico. The honourable member drew an amusing picture of the way in which the *Times* was managed, retaining in its service a number of gentlemen of the most opposite opinions, who were individually consistent, but collectively, profligately, and dishonestly inconsistent.

Mr. DUFFY, an Irish newspaper proprietor, supported the bill.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER could not regard this as a merely financial measure. The House itself had last session condemned the present state of the law, and he had been endeavouring to carry out the expressed wish of the House. If the House had since changed their mind, let them rescind their resolution of last session, and reject the bill altogether. If they did that, would any gentleman give a legal definition of a newspaper, and would the House instruct the Attorney-General to prosecute all unstamped publications that overstepped that line? He treated the fears entertained by most newspaper proprietors as altogether chimerical, and stated, as a proof of his opinion, that the existing papers had not suffered from the previous reduction of the stamp to a penny. With regard to the financial part of the question, he admitted that 200,000*l.* a year was a serious loss, but he was prepared with a plan in his Budget to make it good. He might state, however, that the estimated loss would be made up to some extent by an increase in the paper duty, and by a cheap book-post, which the Government proposed to establish. He hoped, therefore, the House would agree to-night to the second reading of the bill.

Mr. DISRAELI denied that the financial policy of the Government ever had been, or ought to be, influenced by abstract resolutions of the House. He supported the amendment, because it did not enter into the general merits of the question. When the subject was brought forward on its own merits, he would listen without prejudice, but he could not imagine a more reasonable proposition than that they should not, on the eve of the Budget, part with this tax before they knew what was to be substituted in its place.

Lord PALMERSTON admitted that on some other occasions Government had refused to act upon a vote of this House, but in this case it happened that the Government concurred with the House in the wish to abolish the stamp. The present was not a merely financial measure, but rested upon much higher considerations. At present, the state of the law was a scandal to the country. He did not apprehend the measure would injure existing newspapers, which, he believed, would maintain their ground in spite of opposition. Nor was he afraid of the effect on the morals and loyalty of the country. He believed, on the other hand, that cheap publications of a high class would find their way to the homes of the poor, and materially contribute to their elevation. On these grounds he was for the bill. But, at any rate, he hoped it would be clearly understood that this vote would be one "aye or no" upon the bill, and that those who voted for delay would be clearly understood as practically rejecting the bill altogether.

The House then divided—

For the second reading 215

Against it 161

Majority for the bill 54

The bill was accordingly read a second time, and ordered to be committed on Monday, the 23rd April.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Mr. LOWE, on Tuesday, having remarked upon the critical condition of the colony of Victoria at the date of the last despatches, Sir G. GREY stated that the disturbances which had occurred among the gold diggers had been promptly suppressed. The Constitution prepared for the colony would, he added, be shortly presented for consideration of Parliament.

Colonel NORTH, on the same day, moved a series of resolutions relative to the Military School at Sandhurst, with the view of extending and improving the means of education for officers in the army afforded in that establishment. He proposed also that free education and maintenance should be granted in the college for the orphan sons of officers of the army, navy, or marines. The motion was seconded by Admiral WALCOTT.

Mr. F. PEEL said that the resolutions now proposed might pledge the House to an outlay which the funds of the establishment could not meet. At present its revenues showed a surplus of only 1,200*l.* per annum available for the purposes indicated. Some considerable discussion took place on the motion, and calls were made for a division. Ultimately, however, Lord PALMERSTON consented to refer the subject to a committee, and, on this intimation, Colonel NORTH withdrew his resolutions.

Sir D. NORREYS obtained leave to bring in a bill to relieve grand juries from fiscal duties, and to place the administration of local affairs, in Ireland, in elected councils. He gave a very long description of the peculiarities of the Irish grand jury system, which he represented as demoralising, and he indicated, likewise, at considerable length, the remedies he proposed, which would transfer the management of local affairs from irresponsible to responsible bodies and functionaries.

In reply to the Earl of MALMESBURY, on Friday, Lord PANMURE stated that every man now serving in the Militia under the act of 1854, whether enrolled in 1852 or 1853, or subsequently to the passing of the act of 1854, is legally compellable to serve in the embodied regiments. That is the law, as laid down by the highest legal authority. But as it was an understand-

ing, prudent or imprudent, that men enrolled in 1852 were to have an option of being reattested or not, that understanding would be religiously observed. One of the consequences of the former observations of their lordships on this matter was, that in several Militia regiments the men had laid down their arms, and refused to be subservient to discipline; though, on explanations, they resumed their obedience again.

Lord PALMERSTON, on Friday, proposed, and Mr. DISRAELI seconded, a vote of thanks to the Rev. Mr. Melville, for his able and eloquent sermon preached before the Commons on the Fast Day. The vote was carried unanimously, and the sermon ordered to be printed, and distributed among honourable members.

Both Houses are to adjourn from Friday next, the 30th inst., to Monday, 16th April.

THE FAST DAY.

Wednesday last—being the day appointed by proclamation, "for a solemn fast, humiliation, and prayer"—was observed throughout the metropolis and country by the almost total cessation of business and the performance of Divine service in churches and chapels. In London, all the Government establishments, Royal Exchange, Lloyd's, docks, banks, &c., were closed, and the entire business of the metropolis, with very few exceptions, was suspended.

The Lord Chancellor and a considerable number of peers including the Earl Granville, Earl Grey, Lord Redesdale, Earl Waldegrave, the Marquis of Anglesey, and several of the bishops, in full canonicals, went in procession to Westminster Abbey, where the Bishop of Salisbury preached from Luke xviii. 13, "God be merciful to me a sinner." There was a full, though not a very crowded, general congregation. The right reverend prelate observed that the judgment which pronounced the war just and necessary was unanimous, and, on the whole, correct; and he put this remark on the very front of his discourse, because a different judgment would introduce into the subject of humiliation on this day other elements than those which now belonged to it. One effect of such a judgment should be to increase, quicken, and confirm our endeavours to obtain success, and secure the restoration of peace. Whatever skill and genius, and prudence and forethought, and manly energy can do, should be done; but perhaps his office then was not so much to deal with these secondary causes as that point in the chain of causation when we come into the presence of the ordaining will of God, and to remind his hearers that the most powerful instruments in that presence are prayer and fasting, and resolutions of amendment of life and almsgiving. He then specified what he considered to be our national sins, such as "the want of spiritual provision for the people, our hardness and censoriousness towards our erring sisters, the idolatry of wealth and pomp, the divisions of the Church, and the lavish prodigality in everything that could pamper the lust of the flesh, while we exercise a far stricter economy than our poorer fathers in everything that concerns the external circumstances of the Church, and the administration of any of her endowments." The bishop also adverted to the necessity for extended education, and of an increase of general philanthropy and benevolent exertion, and expressed his hope that the observance of the day of humiliation would tend to the accomplishment of much good in this respect, as well as to a successful issue of the war, and the restoration of an honourable peace.

At twelve o'clock the members of the House of Commons proceeded on foot to St. Margaret's Church. The speaker, who was robed, was attended by a large circle of members. Amongst them were Viscount Palmerston, Sir George Grey, Mr. Disraeli, Mr. Vernon Smith, Sir B. Hall, Sir J. W. Hogg, Lord A. Paget, Mr. T. Hankey, Lord Ebrington, &c. A most eloquent discourse was delivered by the Rev. Henry Melville. The Church was inconveniently crowded, and a large concourse assembled in Parliament-street to view the procession from the two Houses. Mr. Melville's text was chosen from the 1st of Kings, the 8th chapter, and the 44th and 45th verses: "If thy people go out to battle against their enemy whithersoever thou shalt send them, and shall pray unto the Lord toward the city which thou hast chosen, and toward the house which I have built for thy name, then hear thou in Heaven their prayer and their supplication, and maintain their cause." The following are a few extracts from his discourse:—

We were not summoned, as a nation, to humble ourselves before God because we were at war, which, if it had been fruitful in triumphs, had entailed on us no common disasters, but because it rested with the Almighty alone, who in Scripture was emphatically and repeatedly called the "Lord of Hosts," to give the victory which we desired. We entered on this war with no selfish purpose. We saw Europe already darkened by the shade of a colossal Power, which was ever pushing forward its boundary; and it was not for England to sit tamely by while country after country lost its independence. If we had had no fears for ourselves—if we could not contemplate the probability that the advancing tide would break on our own shores,—at least it was in our charter not to suffer the weak to be borne down by the strong. Therefore did we gird ourselves for the contest. It was no war of ambition or of aggrandisement. We took up the championship of the oppressed; and if we looked beyond the immediate case, it was that we saw the world's liberties in peril, and resolved, ere too late, to make a stand for civilisation, for enlightenment, for human progress and human happiness. And if we had unsheathed the sword only to maintain rights which ought not to have been invaded, and to resent aggressions which threatened even worse disasters than themselves, we might the better hope that God would look favourably on our humiliation, and that He would not turn a deaf ear when, falling low at His footstool, the ashes on our hearts and the sackcloth on our souls, we exclaimed, in the words of the text, "Hear

Thou in heaven our prayer and our supplication, and maintain our cause." The preacher then pointed out, as the peculiarity of the text, that it was "in heaven" we desire that our prayers might be heard. If it were comforting to reflect that God was ever present to receive our prayers on earth, it was an elevating and ennobling thing that through some mysterious translation He received those prayers above. There was not the inhabitant of any one of those bright worlds with which immensity was thronged who was admitted to a nobler audience chamber than ourselves. The soldier who, amid the furies of the battle, or by his lonely watch fire, breathed from the heart a petition unto God, his utterance ascended on high, far away from the tented field and the crash of arms, in that tranquil abode where there could be no strife, because there could be no sin. They were not in that place, at least, to look at second causes, but meekly and submissively to own that, whether or not we had done all that might have been done towards procuring success, we had been smitten of God, to whom human errors, as well as human triumphs, were but instruments for furthering His will. But, at the same time, we ought thankfully to acknowledge that there were many bright points in an otherwise dark picture. Our brave fellows had won other laurels besides those stained with blood, and we accorded them, in their midnight watchings, in their sufferings, borne without a murmur, in their cold, in their hunger, in their sickness, as high, yea, a higher meed of admiration than when they climbed the perilous steep or beat back a host numbering hundreds to their tents. Moreover, the war had given occasion to the display of an unexampled generosity. The rich and the poor alike, the inhabitants of palaces and the inmates of ragged-schools, had all eagerly contributed to the relief of the widow and the orphan. Nay, more, we had seen the most touching and graceful of spectacles—Royalty itself had bent from its high estate, and the wounded soldier had been gladdened and dignified by the visit of his Queen. Above all, the war had called forth one fine and noble trait: it had shown that numbers of the weaker sex, though born to wealth and bred in luxury, were ready to renounce every comfort and to brave every hardship that they might minister to the suffering, tend the wounded in their agony, and soothe the last struggles of the dying. God bless them in this their heroic mission—it might also be said, in their heroic martyrdom!—for, in walking those long lines of sick beds, in devoting themselves to all the ghastly duties of a hospital, they were doing a harder thing than had been allotted to many who had mounted the scaffold or dared the stake. Passing, however, from these cheering circumstances, it must be recollected that our national sin has produced national calamity. All classes were, therefore, to be exhorted to do their part in the great work of national amendment. To the discharge of this sacred duty all should address themselves at once. Who would reckon on to-morrow? There recently came sudden tidings to England; with "bated breath" men whispered them one to the other—they seemed almost incredible, and yet they were authentic. The potentate who had been foremost in this contest, the man who stood out from the rest of his race, the most conspicuous, perhaps, in power, in energy, in strength of will, in firmness of purpose, in sweep of enterprise—he was dead—dead, with countless squadrons waiting his bidding—dead, with convulsed kingdoms watching his throes—dead, while a whole world, it might almost be said, was being shaken by his tread. Then who would presume to count upon to-morrow? At once, lest death overtake us, let each resolve to be a better patriot by being a better Christian. Thus might all be instrumental towards obtaining those blessings for which the nation now humbled itself in prayer. Better and brighter times might break upon the land. We might live to welcome back victorious armies. If thousands lay buried in a foreign strand—buried in no ignoble grave, for their resting-place would be a spot at which for ages to come valour would gain fresh life, and freedom trim her torch—we might live to rejoice that they had not died in vain, that their death had procured for us a peace securing the rights of nations and throwing up a rampart against future aggression.

At the close of the service a liberal collection was made on behalf of the widows and orphans of our soldiers who fell in battle.

Some thousands of persons were attracted to St. Paul's Cathedral, by an announcement that the Corporation would attend, and that a sermon would be preached by the Bishop of London. So dense was the crowd, that people could move neither backwards nor forwards. The officials accepted money for admission, which called down cries of "Shame," audible in the choir. There were two special services—one in the morning, and the other in the afternoon. On both occasions the choir was crowded with an earnest and attentive congregation. In the afternoon, a large number of persons assembled in other parts of the church, to witness the arrival and departure of the Lord Mayor, Sheriffs, and Corporation of the city of London, who attended the service, accompanied by the Recorder and other city officers. The sermon in the morning was preached by the Very Rev. the Dean of St. Paul's; that in the afternoon by the Bishop of London. His lordship took his text from Isaiah, c. xxvii. v. 9—"When thy judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness." The sermon dwelt upon the benefits to be derived from Divine chastisements, when sustained in a right spirit, and the improvement which should be made by the British nation, of the calamities which had overtaken our army in the East.

At the Scotch National Church, Crown-court, Covent-garden, the Rev. Dr. Cumming preached to an overwhelming congregation. The text was Exodus xiv. 15, "Wherefore criest thou unto me," &c. In the course of his discourse he said it had been objected to the appointment of this day that many a poor working-man, already depressed by the cold and poverty of a severe winter, can ill afford to lose a day's wages:—

I feel the force of this. To them this is indeed fasting. That in the end they will not thereby be losers I am satisfied. But I propose that their masters take on themselves this element in the day of fasting, and do not allow one workman in their employ to suffer so

severe a pecuniary loss on that day. The prayers of the worshippers will not be less fervent, the ultimate loss of employers will be more than compensated, and the duties of religion will shine with greater lustre, because accompanied with mercy to the poor.

The Rev. Dr. Hamilton preached to a very numerous congregation at the Scotch Church, Regent-square, from Hosea xiii. 9, "O Israel, thou hast destroyed thyself, but in me is thine help."

The Weigh-house Chapel was filled by a numerous and attentive audience. Previous to his sermon, the preacher, the Rev. T. Binney, read the Royal Proclamation, and said he did not object to the general object of the Proclamation, nor did he object to its object being sought to be secured by the supreme authority in the State. But he objected to the style and language of the document:—

He thought it would have been better if the language of authority had been limited to the appointment of the day. Moreover, he objected to its being ordered that a certain form of prayer, to be drawn up by archbishops and bishops, should be used by the majority, as appeared in the records of the Census, of those who would meet and pray, being such as archbishops and bishops had no authority over. The whole thing became still more offensive when looked at in connexion with a comparatively recent fact. It was not very long since the Edinburgh Presbyterians applied for a day to be set apart for humiliation and prayer, on account of the cholera. They were parried off with a dexterous hand, much to the amusement of all observers. They were referred to physical laws, to the necessity of cleanliness, and were told to apply such means as were at the disposal of human wisdom before they resorted to humiliation and prayer. And now, by the same authority, by the advice and recommendation of the same counselors came forth a command to pray, and a threatening of God's wrath and indignation if they did not, and this, too, under circumstances when the great bulk of the nation felt that the argument formerly applied to the people of Scotland by those who then talked of human wisdom, recoiled with terrible emphasis on those who used it. One reason for the Proclamation was just an instance and an illustration of that routine, formality, and precedent which had recently been the source of so much mischief. It was the old, and authorised, and stereotyped way of expressing what on certain occasions was to be said. Accordingly it was adopted without thought. It had the sanction of prescription, and it never entered the minds of these subjects of formality to think of the free exercise of their own understanding, especially in a case where nothing was concerned but the religious feelings of conscientious men. The nation last year was taken by surprise when it saw the language of the Royal Proclamation, not having had such things for many years. Not only Nonconformists, but Churchmen themselves, felt its inappropriateness, and publicly protested against it. Private representations were made to the then head of the Government, and not without effect, for there was reason to believe that that objectionable phraseology would not have been repeated. As it was, it would be for the nation henceforth to declare its mind, and take the matter into its own hand.

The reverend gentleman then proceeded with his sermon, taking his text from Ps. lxxvi. 5, "Come and see the works of God; He is terrible in his doing towards the children of men." In the course of his discourse, Mr. Binney threw out the following thoughts:—

God had established certain great laws by which He governed the world, and these laws took their course, working out good. His creatures being in harmony with them, but capable also of producing the most frightful results under certain circumstances, which results, though they might often fall on the innocent and undeserving, God did not interfere to prevent. A beautiful babe, first-born of its youthful and loving mother, smiling and crowing in her lap, sprang suddenly, in its joy, into the flame. It was horribly disfigured for life, and it died in prolonged agony. A father neglected his child, and the poor little innocent grew up covered with rags and vermin, or fell a victim to hunger and disease. Or a vessel was sent out without food or fuel, or not seaworthy; fraud, or ignorance, or mistake sent her forth, and presided over the equipment. This was not discovered till it was too late. Skill and seamanship were at the helm, courage and heroism in the crew and passengers, but they languished and perished, and went down quickly into the deep. They would find this principle showing itself on all sides, in respect of individual families, among armies and navies, in all places and under all circumstances. The innocent and unoffending, nay, the wise and good, might sometimes be exposed to ruin and to suffering by wickedness or folly. The lesson we had to draw from this was that God's government of the world was not the government of indulgent and accommodating kindness. If it were, it would have to be a government of constant miracles. We should continually be needing interposition to save some people from the effects of their inexperience, some from the consequences of depending on others, and many from the working of ordinary laws, wise and beneficial in their primary intention and general scope, and yet productive sometimes of great suffering. Man, with his limited understanding would interpose and prevent that fire, save that property, keep alive that husband, restore that mother. Man would do ten thousand other things if he governed the world. But God looked not at the immediate object; His law must take its course, though it blasted and desolated some of the most beautiful pictures of life—although, from sheer ignorance, mistake, thoughtlessness, or incapacity, it might cover a continent with corpses and drown a nation in tears. The conclusion to which these illustrations should bring us was, that we should try to understand the world in which we live, and the nature of the laws by which we are hemmed in on all sides, and how necessary it was only to expect successful results after conforming to all the conditions instituted by Providence, and how awful was the responsibility of those who, by neglect of God's great law, produced national disaster.

In many other of the Dissenting places of worship, service was held. At Claremont Chapel, Pentonville, the Rev. John Blackburn preached from Daniel ix., 1st clause of 7th v.—"O Lord, righteousness belongeth to Thee, but unto us, confusion of faces as at this day."—At York-street Chapel, Walworth, the Rev. P. J. Turquand, the junior pastor, preached, and in alluding to the occasion, said they did not observe

the day in obedience to any secular authority, and protested against the wording of the threat accompanying the Proclamation, which he would interpret for himself as merely a recommendation, not as a command. The senior pastor, the Rev. G. Clayton, has been for some time laid aside from public duty, it is feared permanently.—In some cases united services were held in which Independents and Baptists united.

At the Jewish synagogue, Duke's-place, there was a full service in the afternoon, which was attended by a numerous congregation. A special service, appropriate to the occasion, was distributed, having been previously printed for use in all the synagogues in the United Kingdom. The Chief Rabbi, Dr. Alder, preached. Text, a passage from the 33rd chapter of Isaiah, having reference to the invasion of Judea by Sennacherib.

The Roman Catholics took no special notice of the day; but, as it was one of their ordinary fast-days, their churches were attended.

Throughout the country the day was similarly observed. The following paragraph from the *Leeds Mercury* may be considered as a general description:—

Mills, factories, warehouses, offices, and tradesmen's shops were, with trifling exceptions, closed throughout the day; and it is satisfactory to know that in several of the largest mills and factories precautions were taken that the compulsory idleness of the day should not affect the wages of the operatives, by arranging, as far as practicable, for longer hours on the other days of the week. Divine service took place, morning and evening, in the several Episcopal churches, and also in most of the chapels of the Wesleyan Methodists. Though protesting against the right of the head of the State to command in matters spiritual, the Independent body of Leeds determined to observe the day by religious services, which were held in East-parade, Queen-street, and other places of worship, morning and evening. These special services were well attended. None of the chapels of the Baptist denomination were open for special services in connexion with the war, and the same was the case with some other Nonconformist bodies in the borough.

In some cases instead of a service there was a united prayer meeting of different religious denominations. At Herstmonceux, in Sussex, several of the farmers in the district agreed to pay the wages of their men, provided they attended Divine service twice in the day, leaving them to worship God either at the Parochial Church or the Dissenting Chapel.

At the request of several respectable inhabitants of Hemel Hempstead, a lecture was delivered in the Town Hall of that place, by Mr. Edmund Fry, secretary of the League of Brotherhood. The subject was "War: its utter incompatibility with the claims of the Gospel." It was thought that such a lecture would form a peculiarly appropriate termination to the proceedings of the Fast-day. The hall was densely crowded, and some hundreds of persons were turned from the doors, unable to gain admission. The chair was occupied by Samuel Rosling, Esq., of Cornor Hall, who read some extracts from the "Address to the People of England" recently issued by the Peace Society. The lecture was listened to with marked interest and attention, and at its close a vote of thanks was cordially given to the lecturer and the chairman.

At Preston, the Rev. Alexander Birnie delivered an address in the lecture-room of the Old Mechanics' Institution, on the subject of our present humiliation. The room was well filled by a respectable and attentive audience. Mr. Birnie's address strongly condemned the State Fast, and pointed out in what respects the people should humble themselves before God, and seek for a radical reform of abuses in Church and State.

Postscript.

YESTERDAY'S PARLIAMENT.

In the House of Lords, yesterday, the Marquis of BREADALBANE (the Lord Chamberlain) brought up and read to their lordships Her Majesty's gracious answer to the address from the House in reference to the treaty with Sardinia.

The Militia (Ireland) Bill was read a second time on the motion of the SECRETARY-OF-WAR.

Their lordships adjourned at twenty minutes to six o'clock.

In the House of Commons, replying to Mr. COBDEN. Mr. ROEBUCK stated that the evidence collected by the Sebastopol Inquiry Committee, so far as the investigation had now gone, would be laid before the House before the Easter recess. To a further question the honourable and learned member replied that the committee hoped to close their labours in no long time after re-assembling at the end of the holidays.

THE RE-CONSTITUTION OF POLAND.

Mr. PHINN moved that an address should be presented to the Crown, praying that, while attempting to negotiate a peace, the British envoys should use their best exertions for the re-constitution of the kingdom of Poland within its ancient limits, as a measure just in itself, accordant with the ancient policy of the country, and absolutely essential to the due maintenance of the balance of power in Europe. The honourable member supported his motion by enlarging upon the political crimes which had attended the partition of Poland, and the beneficial results that might be anticipated from its restoration.

The motion was seconded by Mr. SCHOLEFIELD, and supported by Mr. M. MILNES.

Lord R. CEIL contended that England had no right to interfere in such a cause, since she could not come into court with clean hands, being herself guilty of the suppression of free nationalities in different parts of the world.

Lord PALMERSTON denied that the territorial extension of the British Empire had been accom-

plished by means of criminal aggression. On the moral question he agreed in all that had been said respecting the lawless character of the partition of Poland. Practically, however, he submitted that the motion laid before the House was highly inexpedient. It would embarrass the Government in their diplomatic proceedings, and implied a pledge of actually taking up arms against the present possessors of Polish territory, for the purpose of vindicating the independence of that people. The introduction of such a controversy would add enormously to the already existing difficulties in the way of concluding a peace. He appealed to the honourable mover to withdraw his resolution.

Mr. PHINN consented to this course, and the motion was accordingly withdrawn.

COMMISSIONS IN THE ARMY.

Major REED moved for the appointment of a select committee to inquire into the present mode of conferring commissions in the army, by purchase or otherwise, and to recommend a more efficient system for securing promotion to merit and long service. The existing mode of obtaining commissions and promotion by purchase was, he contended, pernicious to the service, unjust to the private soldier, and most oppressive to poor and deserving officers who had adopted the army as a profession, but could not afford to buy their advancement to its higher grades.

Captain SCOTLAND seconded the motion, and added many arguments and illustrations to show the injurious consequences of the system of purchase and favoritism.

A lengthened discussion took place, in which Colonel Harcourt, Colonel Lindsay, Colonel North, Mr. W. Williams, Colonel Knox, Mr. Laing, Lord Lovaine, Lord Seymour, Mr. Lowe, and Colonel Dunne took part.

Lord PALMERSTON, after eulogising the performances of the army during the pending war, argued that while such were the results of an existing system, there was no true ground for abolishing it. Promotion by purchase might be indefensible in the abstract, but had for generations been rooted in the military organisation, could not now be superseded without much expense and disturbance, and offered many counterbalancing advantages in practical working. The reward of merit was admirable in principle, but in execution inevitably degenerated into promotion by favour. He saw no utility in appointing the select committee, and, on the constitutional question, apprehended the adoption of such a step would involve the House in something approaching to a usurpation of the prerogative of the Crown.

Major REED consented to omit from the subjects to be investigated by his proposed committee, the promotion for merit and long service.

On the motion thus modified, a division took place, when there appeared—Ayes, 70; Noes, 104—34.

Mr. HORSFALL moved an address for copies of certain instructions having reference to the China trade. He stated circumstances to show that the British merchants trading in China had suffered considerable loss during the recent disturbances in that country, through the fault of the consular authorities on the spot. Lord PALMERSTON stated that correspondence was still proceeding, and a report was expected on the subject in question. On this intimation the motion was withdrawn.

The Friendly Societies Bill was committed *pro forma*, in order to its being reprinted with the amendments.

The report from the committee on the Royal reply, respecting the treaty with Sardinia, was brought up and agreed to.

The report from the committee of Supply having been brought up, Mr. MACARTNEY complained of the rapidity with which the votes on the estimates had been hurried through the House at a late hour on the previous evening. Mr. WILSON defended his conduct on the occasion, on the plea of necessity. The whole civil service must have stood still if the votes had not been duly passed before the end of the month.

Some further conversation took place, after which the report was agreed to, and the House adjourned at a quarter to one.

REPRESENTATION OF LIVERPOOL.

The nomination of candidates for Liverpool took place yesterday. Sir George Bonham was proposed by Mr. J. Littleale, and seconded by Alderman Shand. Mr. George Maxwell proposed, and Mr. Robertson Gladstone seconded, Mr. J. C. Ewart. Sir George then explained his political principles. He said he was a follower of Lord Derby, and he would render his support to the commercial institutions and to the Constitution. (Cheers.) He should also adhere to the principles of our reformed faith, which were in a prosperous state, and he would concentrate all his ability and energy upon the carrying of questions brought forward for the public good. (A Voice: "How much did you get for Hong-Kong?") He got 6,000*l.* a year, and that was not half enough. (Roars of laughter, and immense cheering.) His motto was "deeds" not "words." Mr. Ewart spoke of his opponent as "Tom Bold's candidate." He denounced the mal-administration of the war, and, like his rival, promised to support the Liverpool town dues. He would support the present ministry in every good measure that might be brought forward, but he honestly told them that if he went up to parliament, he went there free and independent; he would not pledge himself to anything; he was independent in mind and in fortune, and nothing would induce him to swerve from what he believed to be for the best interests of the country. (Loud cheers.)

The show of hands was then proceeded with, and declared to be in favour of Mr. Ewart, and led to vociferous cheering of his friends. A poll was then

demanding on behalf of Sir George Bonham, to take place this day.

THE SEBASTOPOL INQUIRY.

The first witness examined yesterday was Mr. W. H. Flower, assistant-surgeon in the 43rd Regiment, who had been sent home on the sick list. His evidence fully bore out previous statements as to the numerical deficiencies of the medical staff, the dearth of medicine, the sufferings of the troops in hospital, and on the way to Scutari. Up to the time he landed in the Crimea, in September, till he left in the middle of December, nearly three months, the men had not changed their clothing. The men were greatly overworked, and exposed to the weather. He had frequently heard men say that they had to work in the trenches two days and nights out of three. The coffee roasted or charred by the men, was like "charcoal and water." While he was in the Crimea his tent was blown down, and he and his men had to lie on the ground twenty-four hours. The result was that he was frost-bitten, and five of his men died. Dr. Mensies was recalled. The reports made to him by Dr. McGregor were not always satisfactory. Occasionally it was mentioned that he had not sufficient assistance in regard to medical men. He (witness), on inspection of the hospital, thought it was not in a proper state of cleanliness, but that there were many difficulties in the way of keeping it in a satisfactory condition. He represented the matter to the Commandant, but he had no copy of the letter. Various reports had been made to him, but he had left them all at Scutari. (Laughter.) Thought Admiral Boxer was to blame, for not attending to the time proper for landing the sick. Miss Nightingale supplied a great many things. He had seen Mr. Macdonald, but he (witness) never asked him a question. He did not apply to the *Times* fund for assistance, because he did not think there was a necessity to do so. The articles that Mr. Macdonald furnished might have been supplied, though not perhaps to the same extent, if they had not previously been purchased by that gentleman at Constantinople. He was not aware that Mr. Macdonald applied to him more than once to know if anything was wanted in the hospital, but he might have done so; and witness might have then told him that nothing was wanted. The witness was under examination when the Committee rose at four o'clock.

LATEST FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

The *Moniteur* of yesterday contains the following despatch from the French Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople:—

Pera, March 19.

In the night between the 15th and 16th instant our troops carried a line of ambuscade occupied by the enemy's sharpshooters. The Russians, at the same time, made a sortie on our extreme left. It was vigorously repulsed. The enemy had fifty men disabled, and retired in disorder.

"The treaty of Sardinia with the Porte," says the same official journal, "was signed on the 15th of this month."

On the subject of the reported waiver by the Emperor of the demolition of Sebastopol as a condition of peace, the *Constitutionnel* says:—

Without being in the confidence of the Government, or in the secrets of the Conference, we should suppose, from numerous indications gathered from various quarters, that the impossibility commonly believed in, on the subject of the stipulations relative to the Black Sea, does not exist. The destruction of Sebastopol no longer figures in the number of these stipulations, for the reason that the siege of which this place has been the object has never been considered otherwise than a means, and not as an end, by the Western Powers. What they pursue in common in the Black Sea with their fleet and army, is not the ruin nor the capture of a military port; it is the reduction of the forces which Russia has maintained in these parts—it is the species of domination which she exercised, and the privilege she enjoyed there, to the detriment of all Europe, and, above all, of Turkey.

The *Pays* speaks to the same effect, and it is clear that this is the authorised diplomatic language of the hour.

The situation of the Allies in the Crimea is represented in the official *Journal de St. Petersburg*, to hand yesterday, in the following terms:—

The position of the Allies is now completely shut in by an enclosure of formidable entrenchments, extending from the great infantry camp near the citadel by the heights of Inkermann, along the Tchernaya, as far as to the approaches of Bahklava. New divisions have joined the army. Grave events are expected.

A telegraphic despatch from St. Petersburg, dated the 26th inst., states that the following despatch had been received there:—

Prince Gortschakoff arrived at Sebastopol on the 20th March.

On the 14th the Turkish cavalry at Eupatoria made a sortie, but were repulsed.

On the 17th three battalions of Zouaves attacked the new redoubts, and were driven back with great loss.

VIENNA, Tuesday Evening.—The political horizon has again become somewhat gloomy. It is said that yesterday's Conference, which was the first on the third point, was not satisfactory. Although the Western Powers do not insist on razing the fortifications of Sebastopol, they propose other conditions which are not agreeable to Russia.

CORN-EXCHANGE, MARK-LANE, Wednesday, March 28.

With full supplies of wheat from the farmers, and probability of a settlement of the Russian question, the wheat trade is very quiet, and prices generally have a downward tendency. The same applies to all spring corn.

Arrivals this week.—Wheat, English, 1,620 qrs; foreign, — qrs. Barley, English, 2,180 qrs. Oats, English, 190 qrs; Irish, — qrs; foreign, — qrs. Flour, 1,360 qrs; foreign, 280 sacks.

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TO CORRESPONDENTS.

J. K., Maidstone.—Advertisements for the *Nonconformist* should be sent to the Publisher, before Eight o'clock on Tuesday Evening.

The Nonconformist.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28, 1855.

SUMMARY.

At length there is something like a well-grounded hope of the success of the peace negotiations at Vienna. Two out of the four points—those relative to the protectorate of the Principalities and the free navigation of the Danube—are said to have been put into a definite shape, and accepted by the Russian envoys. The third and critical proposition of the Allies—viz., the measures to be adopted for putting an end "to the preponderance of Russia in the Black Sea,"—is now, it is believed, under the consideration of the Conference, and is being discussed by anticipation by political journals in every capital of Europe. The impression prevails in our money market, in the House of Commons, and in the usual centres of political information, that the Western Powers have consented to waive the demand for the demolition of Sebastopol, and are willing to remain satisfied with a reduction of the Russian fleet in the Black Sea—such a reduction, in fact, as has already been effected by the sinking of a considerable part of it at the entrance to the great fortress—and some minor provisions, such as the fortification of Sinope. The tone of the Paris semi-official journals seems to confirm this report. No later than Monday the *Constitutionnel* spoke of the destruction of Sebastopol as being no longer included "in the number of the stipulations of the Allies relative to the Black Sea, for the reason that the siege of which this place has been the object has never been considered otherwise than as a means, and not as an end, by the Western Powers."

"What they pursue in common in the Black Sea," continues the French journal, "with their fleet and army, is not the ruin nor the capture of a military port—it is the reduction of the forces which Russia has maintained in these parts—it is the cessation of the domination which she exercised, and the privilege she enjoyed there, to the detriment of all Europe, and, above all, of Turkey." We cannot suppose that such language would be permitted by the French Government, if it were not, in some sense, a reflection of the official mind. The probability for its conclusion is countenanced by the further postponement, if not abandonment, of the Emperor's visit to the Crimea.

How this great concession of the Allies will be received by Russia remains to be seen. Prince Gortschakoff has already expressed his willingness "to come to an understanding in formal conferences for peace on the means which the three Courts may propose to put an end to what they call the preponderance of Russia in the Black Sea, on condition that, in the choice of those means, there be not one of a nature to infringe upon the rights of sovereignty of my august Master on his own territory." There is nothing tangible to be deduced from such language, any more than from the tone of Count Nesselrode's despatch to the agents of Russia at foreign courts, or from the declarations of the new Emperor to his own subjects of his determination to maintain intact the integrity of the Russian empire and her military reputation.

The latest reports from Vienna are not satisfactory. The other conditions of the fourth point are said to be not agreeable to Russia. But it is to be borne in mind that her diplomacy is ever exacting, and that nothing is likely to be given up without a struggle. The progress of the Conference, thus far, the leaning of Austria to her former ally, and the arrangements of Lord John Russell for a lengthened visit to Vienna, indicate protracted negotiations.

It is not unlikely the Emperor Alexander feels the security of his position in the Crimea, and increased confidence in the impregnability of the fortifications of Sebastopol, which increase in strength and extent as the "siege" is lengthened out. He may perhaps believe, what we are very slow to admit, that Russia is actually the successful combatant, and that her power has nothing to fear from the shocks of a new campaign. Thus far events are not unfavourable to this conclusion. Hostilities have been resumed, though the bombardment is not

re-commenced—but the Russians, not the Allies, take the initiative. In truth, the latter appear to be the besieged. The *Times* attaches an importance to a telegraphic report from Marseilles, which is not borne out by official information, as to a repulse of the Russians with great loss along the whole line. Had there been any important engagement, we should no doubt, ere this, have had information of the fact from the Allied Generals. At present their plan seems to be to act upon the defensive. That they cannot resume active operations is apparent from their inability to destroy the new and advanced works of the Russians. Their present inactivity may, to some extent, be ascribed to the hopes engendered by the Vienna negotiations. But, thus far, there is nothing to indicate the willingness of the Russian Court to accept in good faith the less humiliating terms offered by the Allies.

As the "policemen in plain clothes" stationed at the doors of all places of worship, on Wednesday last, to count the number of attendants, have made no public report, we are unable to pronounce on the proportions in which the Royal Proclamation was observed to the letter; but that the great majority of the population in the metropolis and some of the great towns abstained from ordinary business may be safely affirmed. London had the appearance of a Sunday in summer—the churches and chapels well or ill attended according to their locality or the fame of the preacher; the streets and suburban roads thronged with people neither wearing sackcloth nor crowned with ashes. The sermons, to judge from the newspaper reports, were not altogether unfaithful to the national feeling—pungent censures of human misdeeds accompanying the recognition of Providential purposes.

We should indeed be a people given over to madness and ruin if the evidence accumulating day by day in the Sebastopol committee-room, did not convince us that "not in our stars, but in ourselves," is the source of the malignant influences which have afflicted our army with all the plagues of Egypt. The disclosures of the last few days have related almost exclusively to the condition of the hospital at Scutari. The appalling descriptions of Mr. Augustus Stafford have been supplemented by the minute and graphic testimony of the Rev. S. G. Osborne, and the reluctant admissions of the medical superintendents, Doctors Smith and Menzies. Disgusting filth, inhuman cruelty, absolute starvation, are the charges established beyond doubt against the Scutari authorities. Ante-rooms and out-houses covered thick with ordure—operations performed on a board at the bedside of brave men sickening with terror—hundreds dying of a disease misnamed cholera, the aggravation of dysentery by want of food and medicines—are the awfully distinct realities that now take the place in the public mind of generalities themselves too horrible for ready belief. And on the side of the accused we have nothing but recriminations, evasions, and unsustained contradictions. Dr. Andrew Smith, sitting here at home, duly dispatched abundance of necessaries and comforts, did not feel responsible for their non-arrival or misapplication, and was content to oppose the formal reports of local inspectors to the informal reports of newspaper correspondents. Dr. Menzies was the Scutari Inspector, and he rolls upon others the burden rolled by Dr. Smith upon him. If the miserable patients had their rations served up half raw, it was the fault of the cooks—if linen were absolutely wanting, or disgustingly unclean, it was the fault of contractors—if food and medicine were wanting, it was the fault of the purveyor—if the wards were "dirty," not to say "disgracefully dirty," it was the fault either of the orderlies or engineers—and if, notwithstanding all these potentialities of evil, he reported "all well," it was the fault of those who reported to him "all well,"—he, the Inspector, not feeling it his duty to inspect anything but the papers he had to sign. Witnesses who figure thus, under the searching examination of Mr. Roebuck and Mr. Layard, can hardly escape figuring hereafter in a capacity that may expose them to punishment as well as reprobation. The Committee promise to print the evidence taken before adjourning for the holidays: the public will therefore have time to frame its bills of indictment before the rising of the House.

In the presence of such wholesale homicide as this at Scutari, the loss of two lives from the fall of a bridge at Bristol, may seem to require notice only for its sequel—the arrest of the bridgeworker.

The defence put in by the Marquis of Clanricarde is a timely instance of the salutary terror exercised by that self-humiliating institution, whose self-elected representatives are just now protesting that their tendency to libel and blasphemy must needs be restrained by bail bonds; but the defence itself only strengthens the requirement of investigation.

Absorbed as the country has been for a year past, in that most dangerous excitement—a great war,

it is not surprising that the pressing claims of our own population should be neglected. Schemes of philanthropy and religious improvement languish for want of their usual support, a state of things which encourages the impatient to look to the Government to supply the short-comings of benevolence. There is in Westminster a Reformatory for Adult Criminals, whose successful operations have already given it a great reputation. At a meeting, in its support, held last week, it was stated that the amount of money stolen by the 100 men now in the institution was at least 76,000*l.*, that 400 had left it since its commencement, very few of whom had fallen back into evil habits, and that one of its former inmates subscribed 5*l.* to its object. Yet we are told that this admirable society is "constantly on the verge of bankruptcy," and stands greatly in need of the aid of the benevolent. We fear that the London Reformatory is not singular in its complaint of the falling off in the liberality of the public, or perhaps, we should say, in their available resources.

The thirty-third American Congress has closed its last session, with a sitting extraordinary—stretching from Friday night on to Sunday morning, and leaving the floor strewn with apple parings and cigar ends. The report of the diplomatic Conference at Ostend has been published; and discloses a curious inclination on the part of Envoys to administer foreign affairs rather according to their own notions, than their instructions from Washington.

NOTES FROM THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE normal temper of the House of Commons is never mutinous for many days together. The Executive, at least in the more popular branch of Legislature, is never thwarted, but when the House is under strong pressure. Desire of change, fear, disgust, indignation, hope, and sometimes caprice, may occasionally prick it into rebellion, and stir it into a passionate disregard of Ministerial threats, and whipping-in appliances—but after it has satisfied itself of its ultimate independence and supremacy, it readily returns to docility. Always accustomed to be led, nothing excites its sense of discomfort so much as the necessity of taking the lead into its own hands. It is glad enough to give up the reins to a Government nominally responsible to itself, and it prefers to lounge over legislation, rather than to direct it. It is no matter of surprise, therefore, that we have soon accommodated ourselves to the Palmerstonian rule—albeit the noble viscount, in his lead, jolts all sorts of prejudices, and displays no sort of consideration to the hobbies or infirmities, the opinions or the principles, of the sections who compose his majority. If his own line of policy were well defined, this would but indicate a healthy vigour, and would probably, in the long run, command respect—but the flight of a snipe is not more capricious, nor more incalculable, than the course of Lord Palmerston—and hence the House, although tolerant for the time being, has that worried sort of feeling which, in less critical times, would be sure to show itself in rebellion against Parliamentary authority.

But, as already intimated, we are "good boys" for the present. With a shrug or two of astonishment, we quietly put up with marvellous drafts upon our credulity or our patience. In spite of ourselves, we are partisans—at least, we act in the spirit of partisanship. The Palmerston Administration is therefore secure for the present. The noble lord has settled himself in his saddle; and the noble animal which curvetted, and reared, somewhat at starting, takes the road as tamely as a packhorse. We are doing everything we are bidden to do, and because we are bidden to do it. Restiveness would do no good—the present rider might be thrown, but who would be the next to mount? And so we pace along in obedience to bridle and spur, to coax and menace, in the most accommodating spirit possible. Even in talk we are less exuberant than usual—but this, we suspect, arises from the fact that most of the lawyers are on circuit—and it is no little relief to miss, for a brief interval, their unceasing chatter.

We cannot inform our readers of what occurred on the Fast-day. We were not among those members who obeyed the royal summons, who met at the House, and who walked in procession behind Mr. Speaker to St. Margaret's Church, where the Rev. Mr. Melville eloquently discoursed on topics suitable to the occasion. We have heard, indeed, that he was splendidly declamatory; and, on Friday evening, Lord Palmerston moved, and Mr. Disraeli seconded, a vote of thanks to him for his sermon. Was it with the view of prolonging the salutary impressions produced by the solemnities of the preceding day, that there was "no House" on Thursday? Was it with pious intent that Her Majesty's whippers-in prevented, or, more correctly, persuaded members to refrain from taking their seats before four o'clock? Or was it that Mr. Pellatt's notice of motion for inquiring into the operations of the Burial Acts was distasteful to Government? Or was it that

some other cause drove members into the lobby, or kept them there, until their release was secured? We are informed that Government were in some perplexity as to how a certain question relative to the militia must be answered—and that it was important for them to gain time. Be this as it may, the House looked ominously vacant at the time of reading prayers. Some five-and-twenty members were afterwards counted—then, after a minute or two, six-and-twenty, and so on to thirty. But by the time at which this number was reached, the clock stood at about a half-a-minute to four o'clock. All eyes were turned to the door, but no one came—and, at four o'clock, the Speaker declared the House to stand adjourned.

Another educational measure—Scottish, this time—a sort of revised edition of the Lord Advocate's Bill of last year. We have not yet seen it, and therefore, cannot undertake to describe it. We understand it meets the objections of the United Presbyterian voluntaries, who by a sort of ingenious mechanism, have managed to make what they know to be really religious education at the public expense look like secular instruction only. It is not for us, of course, to contest the sincerity of their views on the subject of national education, but we must say that the odd corners into which a desire to devolve on Government the duties of parents has led the United Presbyterians, and the curious hair-splitting to which their consciences are driven, have not tended to reconcile us to their decision. The Lord Advocate, however, is a member of the Free Church—and it was chiefly for the relief of the Free Church that the original measure was framed. He, as a matter of course, was able and eloquent—every member is when he brings forward an educational measure—and many were the congratulations tendered to him by Scotch borough members. Just so it was last year—and yet the measure, on the motion for its second reading was rejected by a majority of 9. Already there are mutterings of discontent on the part of High Churchmen; but this year, we fancy, they grumble chiefly in the hope of gaining some compromise.

The initiatory stage of this measure having been got through with many interchanges of complimentary expressions, Mr. W. S. Lindsay, on the motion for going into Committee of Supply, called attention to a less welcome subject—the management of our transport service. As was to have been expected of a man who knew what he was talking about, better probably than any other member of the House, he did his work well. He could afford to praise what was praiseworthy—he was able to point out, and bold enough to censure, what was culpable. He proved another case against the Executive of ignorance, mismanagement, and waste—and he finely roared, but not more severely than they deserve, the Peter Dicks of office. Sir James Graham, who has face enough for anything, eulogised as perfection precisely those very matters which Mr. Lindsay had found to be deficient—and lauded as immaculate, just the very men with whom the honourable member for Tyne-mouth had found fault. Well! in political life, effrontery is a valuable qualification—it carries one through hosts of perplexities and dangers—and the First Lord of the Admiralty possesses it to admiration. Mr. Cayley, however, came to the support of Mr. Lindsay, and poured vinegar and nitre over the stripes which the latter gentleman's vigour had inflicted.

Quite a large House on Monday—got together to support, or to defeat, the Chancellor of the Exchequer's Newspaper Stamp Duties Bill. But there was a preceding discussion of some length which nobody seems to have anticipated—on the Sardinian loan, which was interpreted "subsidies." Lord Palmerston was eulogistic of the Government of Piedmont, and of the House of Savoy—which Disraeli considered very ill-timed, and which was gravel in the teeth of Mr. Bowyer. Mr. Gladstone was fluently, we may say verbosely eloquent, in defence of the resolution proposed by his noble friend—and Mr. Arthur Kinnaid, as an anti-Popery Evangelical and Liberal, was naturally enough delighted. Criticism was not followed by action; and so the vote was snarled at, and passed. Then came on the newspaper penny stamp discussion.

The opponents of the measure adopted an insidious line of tactics. They declined a contest on the merits of the case, and asked only for delay until the Chancellor of the Exchequer should open his budget. Mr. Deedes moved an amendment to this effect, and supported his motion by a very weak speech, very ineffectively delivered. Sir E. B. Lytton was the main champion of the measure. There was a heartiness, a power, and a consciousness of moral superiority about his speech which rendered it unusually successful. His elocution is not graceful—and commonly his effusions smack strongly of a party spirit, and are weakened by excess of elaboration. But on this question he seemed at home, and consequently at ease—and he certainly demolished every plea which had been urged against the measure.

From poetry and morals we were brought to prose and law by the Attorney General—good vigorous prose, and a history of em barrased law. He, too, rendered the cause of "unrestricted competition" good service. Sir Francis Baring was terrified at the irregularity and temerity of remitting a tax before knowing what may be its substitute. Poor man!—he remembers the adoption of the penny postage system, the deficiency which it caused, and his perplexities as an uninventive Chancellor of the Exchequer. Mr. Packe did not greatly strengthen the Opposition by his speech, nor was he very successful in keeping attention. Mr. Miall was well listened to during the greater portion of his speech, but, considering the hour of the night, was too long, and therefore excited some impatience. Mr. Drummond followed in characteristic vein—some hard truths, some pleasant humour, and a preponderance of indescribable twaddle. Mr. Duffy was short, and to the point. The Chancellor of the Exchequer was rather apologetic than enthusiastic, but he succeeded in vindicating the step he had taken. Mr. Disraeli was clever in special pleading—he guarded against uttering an opinion on the substantial merits of the question, and argued only against the untimeliness of the proposed change. Lord Palmerston put the effect of the amendment in its true light—and told the House that their vote would be practically, and ought to be, "aye or no" to the measure. The division exceeded our hopes, after all that we had heard and observed. The second reading of the bill was affirmed by a majority of 54—namely, ayes 215, noes 161.

Last night was occupied by a short discussion on the restoration of Poland, initiated by Mr. Phinn, and supported by Mr. Milnes; and by a much longer discussion, full of interest, but not very well attended, on army reform. Major Reed introduced the subject, and asked for a committee of inquiry on army promotions. Of course, many of the military members were highly indignant, but the question was well taken in hand by civilians. The two speeches of the night were those delivered by Mr. Laing and Mr. Lowe, both of which were excellent specimens of Parliamentary eloquence, and represented with great effect the common sense of the country. Government opposed the motion as infringing on the prerogative of the Crown, but only defeated it by a small majority. The debate will serve a useful practical purpose.

THE SARDINIAN SUBSIDY, AND PALMERSTON ON POLAND.

Of the many eloquent sentences addressed to the House of Commons on Wednesday last, from the pulpit of St. Margaret's, probably none was more loudly applauded by the hearts of his hearers than that in which the preacher asserted the purity of our motives in taking up arms against Russia. To resist a limitless ambition, while as yet we were beyond its sphere—to breast the encroaching tide, which had swallowed up States once free as our own, though ourselves fearless of its sweep—to stand between the threatened civilisation of the West, and the threatening barbarism of the East—these, according to the Golden Lecturer (a Chrysostom twice gilt), are the objects for which we incurred the perils and pains of war. He is right. It was for no such narrow purpose as the salvation of a State that seemed marked out for dissolution by signs of internal decay, however resolved to protect it from external violence—for no such mean ends as the insurance of their own safety from remote, if not imaginary, dangers—but in defence of universal interests, especially in behalf of "oppressed nationalities," that the people of England terminated that thirty-five years' peace which had been to them an uninterrupted progress in prosperity, power, and freedom.

This, we have always asserted, was the popular idea of the war. The House of Commons, and even the Government, doubtless supposed itself identified with the people in this as in other respects. But what an instructive commentary on that supposition is supplied by the foreign-policy discussions of the past week—as read, that is, in the light of antecedent or contemporary facts. To the deliverance of Europe from Russian domination, the first pre-requisite was the overthrow of Russia's lieutenant—Austria. In no part of the Continent—scarcely in Siberia, the living tomb of Slavonic independence—is Czarism more absolute or more crushing than in Italy. From Venice to Sicily, at Milan and at Rome, Nicholas reigned by deputy; patron and protector of Francis-Joseph, in his turn patron and protector of pope, king, and archduke, each in his turn, the abject imitator of Czar and Kaiser: arbitrary as they, and even more cruel. There was but one exception to this gloomy aspect of a land once bright with the blended hues of liberty, literature, and art—the constitutional kingdom of Sardinia. The hereditary ambition of its kings aspired to the throne of a free and united Italy—and they sought this high distinction chiefly by the path

of internal reform; strengthening the institutions of the country against Rome on the one hand and Austria on the other. With England and France making war upon Russia, Sardinia would naturally place herself at the head of Italian patriots—form the vanguard of an army of liberation—and await from the voice of an independent nationality, her share of the dignities she had helped to conquer. The sequence was obvious and secure. Nothing but the intervention of France and England, could prevent the easy accomplishment of so splendid a project—a project as dear to the sympathies of humanity as worthy of the fame of Italy.

But the intervention *has* been made. So sinister was the aspect of our relations with Austria, that Ministers had formally to disclaim intentions of interfering on her behalf between Italy and her Providential opportunity. They have not interfered by force, but by suasion. They have drawn Sardinia into the alliance against Russia, that she may not break the yoke of Austria. They have supplied her with reasons for assenting to an association which she would have been ridiculed as arrogant if she had sought. They have furnished her with the means of carrying out the unnatural scheme substituted for her own proper policy. They cover over the poverty which should have kept her at peace till war became a necessity, by a loan not larger in amount than a fortnight's expenditure on our own armaments—enough to make her our auxiliary, not enough to make her our ally. It is not concealed that other motives than the appreciation of her aid have determined us to make her our debtor. The Premier, assailed with obvious objections, enforced from a bitter experience, exults in having reconciled Sardinia to Austria; and Mr. Gladstone—not without a sincere and humane interest in Italian amelioration—sets down as "political incendiaries" the discontented patriots who must now take courage from despair. We were to have liberated a family of nations—we succeed only in reconciling royal houses. The idea of national liberation served its purpose in exciting us to war.

But it may yet serve a further purpose, in the hands of the ambidextrous Palmerston. Our painful coaxing and costly bribes have as yet failed to draw Austria into the field—compliments and rebukes are alike thrown away upon Prussia—and our own people are becoming restive at the prospect of a peace that relegates Poland to the grave. Poland is again of use—of use as a threat and as a charm. Her name is upon the lips of the philanthropic Shaftesbury and the impulsive Sir Robert Peel. The one utters it in a response to public memorials,—the other volunteers from the hustings to test by it Austria's sincerity. The former having been invited into the cabinet, and the latter actually holding office, the Government might be supposed, by these utterances, to be "committed," or at least "embarrassed." The head of the Government is, at all events, not so easily abashed. He perceives at once his advantage. Interrogated on the subject, he praises the generous impulses of his subordinate,—produces a Parliamentary sensation by significantly pausing at the word Poland—and extends the sensation to all Europe, by the candid statement of his opinion that "Poland is a standing menace to Germany." What that imposing phrase may mean, it is difficult to decide. It is capable of at least two interpretations. Poland may "menace" Germany (query, Austria or Prussia?) either by the example of her death, or by the prospect of her resurrection. Ministerial journalists—gentlemen whose duty it is to make the most or the least, as the occasion may require, of ministerial utterances—have discovered a third meaning; namely, that Poland is the western Sebastopol—a chain of fortresses from which conquering hordes may issue upon the Danubian plains. But whatever the interpretation of this political *bon mot*, we are at no doubt as to its intent. Palmerston designed to galvanise his defunct reputation as the friend of the peoples. By an inflexion of voice and a change of countenance, he might set in motion all the pens and wires of Europe. Secure, in Austria's knowledge of his real views—as he was careful to inform the House—from the chance of embarrassing the diplomatists, he was almost equally secure of the applause of thoughtless Liberals. The success of the experiment may be seen in the abrupt conclusion of the debate brought on last night by Mr. Phinn. The advocate of Polish claims throws up his brief at the instant he is required so to do by a noble lord who at once deprecates the obstruction of peace, and professes sympathies with freedom. Such professions have no worth but in the character of him who makes them. We, who know the character of Palmerston, value these professions at less than *nil*—as not only meaningless, but mischievous; and if there be any disposed to accept them in earnest, we warn them of worse than disappointment—of dishonour to their understandings and disgrace to their country. Let the Sardinian subsidy interpret Palmerston on Poland.

THE "INTOLERABLE" AND UNTENABLE STAMP.

THE debate of Monday night, closing with a majority of fifty-four in favour of the newspaper stamp repeal, is one of those rare events by which the labours of faith and hope are sometimes rewarded—the exertions of a conscientious activity encouraged. To find one's self, after the lonely fidelity of years to an object of personal unconcern, in a victorious crowd—to hear the arguments one has often urged, perhaps to unwilling readers and with a wearied pen, reproduced by men of eloquence and fame—is a pleasure not often to be enjoyed, and therefore not to be fully enjoyed in silence.

The speeches in support of the amendment were so palpably directed to a false issue—contained so little in support of the proposition which they professed alone to maintain—and were so manifestly inspired either by the petty aim of damaging a minister new to his work, or by the hope of defeating the measure they claimed only to postpone—that we may accept them as so many weapons raised in defence of the grievance that has now withstood nearly a ten years' siege. And, regarding them as weapons, we may also regard them as trophies; for there was not a speech, and scarcely a sentence, in objection to the principle of the bill, that we might not hold up in triumph, as not only turned aside, but trampled upon—made ridiculous as well as useless—by some speech or sentence on the other side. What a splendid answer, for instance, was that of Sir Bulwer Lytton's to the unworthy fear faintly confessed by Mr. Deedes—the fear of corrupting the opinions and morals of the poor by reducing the price of newspapers to their humble means. Is it the press that corrupts the reader, or the reader the press? demanded the accomplished orator, whose fame as an author the cheap press is daily extending to the utmost limits of English society, and whose purest works are significantly preferred by the people to whom judgment is now remitted. If Mr. Disraeli had not chosen to blemish, by an act of paltry partisanship or still more paltry rivalry, the escutcheon of which he once boasted as that of a gentleman of the press, he also might have told the House that the brilliant fictions in which he has expounded his political paradoxes, have successfully competed, in shilling volumes, with the silly or pernicious stuff to which till latterly the popular appetite for fiction was confined. "As good books have been cheapened, bad books have retreated from circulation." The phrase is that of the elegant baronet's. The fact may be certified by inquiry at any bookseller's, whether in Pall Mall, Paternoster row, or even Holywell-street. It is known, too well for their liking, to the vendors of the unstamped trash which is already oversold by yet cheaper and superior matter, that when news may be produced freely as novels, the novels must be of a better sort to compete with the news. The people have vindicated their taste and morality from the aspersions of fear and selfishness—and the vindication will be yet more complete when the sphere of choice is enlarged.

The speeches of Lord Palmerston and the Attorney-General open another branch of the argument. The one, as a practical statesman—the other, as a constitutional lawyer—abandon the stamp because they can no longer maintain it without increasing the rigour of the law, and consequently diminishing the liberty of the subject. Now that judges cannot agree as to what is the newspaper law, and juries will not convict of its infraction,—now that some two hundred and fifty publications, confessedly illegal, if the advocates of the stamp are correct in their interpretation of its privilege, regularly issue under the eye of the revenue officers, and even pass through the hands of the Postmaster,—above all, now that men are adventurous enough utterly to set at nought a law that has no moral sanctions, and but uncertain civil penalties,—it is to the interest of all parties that the law be altered. Alteration in the sense of restriction is not to be contemplated. The Crown lawyers avow their repugnance to prosecute a man for serving out to his fellow-subjects, at a profit to one department of the revenue, and no necessary fraud upon the other, matter which is common to all, and which it is to the benefit of the community should be enjoyed by all. In a word, the law has become "intolerable." The shackles it imposes upon intellectual enterprise and intellectual taste have not prevented their growth, but have been themselves outgrown. Light has refused to glance aside from media that have not paid duty—and the eye, thirsting for light, has resolved to have it, window-tax or no window-tax. There has been much breaking out of dead walls into glass panels; the destruction of which has proved a task as hopeless as heartless. At last, then, light is to be allowed to find its way wherever the way may be opened up. The soul hungry for knowledge (or for news, which, as Milton says of opinion, is but knowledge in the making), and with a penny in its hand for the purchase thereof,

is no longer to be asked a penny toll on the purchase-money. The natural repugnance of Englishmen to the toll system has conquered here as in the case of the corn and sugar tolls. Happy had it been for England if a century and more ago, a like dogged resistance had been offered, and a like success achieved. The *Spectator*, so happily recalled to political uses by Sir E. B. Lytton, might then have survived to this day, much to the advantage of the literature it initiated and the people it entertained. "That is fame!" said Addison to Steele, when he saw a hackney-chairman reading the joint produce of their ingenious and graceful pens. The stamp imposed by a Whig financier for non-fiscal purposes, could not prevent that "fame" from becoming an earthly immortality—but it did prevent its becoming a contemporary power. Then, as now, it was complained that newspaper-writers aspired to rule the kingdom—and the stamp succeeded in checking their presumption. The vote of Monday-night will call into life a numerous progeny of printed oughts; but what shall restore the perished bes of which the offspring of Addison's genius and virtue was the immortal first-born?

ST. MARTIN'S HALL.

The performance of Haydn's *Creation* drew together a full audience on Thursday last. The crowded state of the shilling portion of the area showed the continued success of Mr. Hullah's efforts to make the works of the great masters accessible to the general public at a cheap rate. With the exception of an occasionally undue prominence of the orchestra, and a deficiency of soprano voices, the oratorio was satisfactorily performed. Mrs. Sims Reeves sang with her usual care and artistic finish. Mr. Reeves appeared to have recovered from his recent indisposition, and executed the tenor songs with admirable effect; the audience somewhat unreasonably demanding a repetition of the beautiful solo, "In native worth." The bass solos were given with much heartiness by Mr. Weiss, whose reputation as an oratorio singer suffers no diminution. Mr. Hullah conducted with his usual grace and intelligence. The next performance will be Mendelssohn's *Elijah*.

Court, Personal, and Official News.

The Court left Osborne on Friday for London, reaching Buckingham Palace about six p.m. The Earl of Clarendon had an audience of the Queen, who afterwards went to the Princess's Theatre. On Saturday, Lord Panmure had an audience. In the evening there was a dinner party, which was attended by the Duchess of Kent, the Prince of Leiningen, Prince Nicholas of Nassau, the Saxon Minister, the Marquis of Breadalbane, Viscount Hardinge, Viscount Monck, &c.

The Queen held the third levee of the season at St. James's Palace, on Monday. The Queen wore a train of green silk, brocaded in white, and trimmed with white blonde, and green gauze ribbon. The petticoat was of white satin, trimmed to correspond. Her Majesty wore a diamond circlet. The presentations were numerous, including that of Sir Samuel M. Peto, on his being created a baronet.

The Duke of Cambridge completed his thirty-sixth year on Monday.

Prince Albert has presented 500*l.* to the "Sailors' Home," Portsmouth.

The Earl of Cardigan has now succeeded the Duke of Cambridge as Inspector-General of Cavalry of the United Kingdom.

Mr. C. H. Darling, late Governor at the Cape, has been appointed Governor of Newfoundland, in the room of Mr. Kerr Baillie Hamilton, appointed Governor-in-Chief of the Leeward Islands.

According to the *Globe*, Mr. Chichester Fortescue is about to resign his office as one of the Junior Lords of the Treasury; but in this step, we are assured, he is "in nowise influenced by political considerations." Mr. James Wilson had been offered the Vice-Presidency of the Board of Trade, but he declined to accept it; and that post remains unfilled.

Mr. Wyndham A'Court, member for Wilton, has been appointed Special Commissioner of Income-tax, in the room of the late Mr. Rushworth. He retires from the representation of Wilton.

Mr. A'Court has addressed the electors of Wilton, on the occasion of his retirement from the representation of that borough. Mr. Edmund Antrobus, son of Sir Edmund Antrobus, Bart., has appeared as a candidate. Mr. Antrobus declares his attachment to the Protestant Church, but his address is otherwise of a neutral tint.

Dr. Andrew Smith is no longer director-general of the medical department of the army. Among the reforms in course of preparation in the several departments of the War Office, it is contemplated to place the army medical department, as well as the Ordnance and other boards, under the direct and immediate control of the responsible Minister for War.

It is said that the Tories of the West Riding intend bringing forward Mr. Henry Edwards, of Halifax, at the next election.

Colonel Mayne, of the Bengal Army, who was appointed to a cavalry command in the Turkish contingent, declines to accept it, in consequence of another cavalry officer in the Queen's service, Colonel Shirley, being placed over him, under whom Colonel Mayne does not think he can be reasonably called upon to serve, the officer in question not having ever been engaged in active service.—*Times*.

THE WAR.

OFFICIAL AND TELEGRAPHIC NEWS.

The following despatches from Lord Raglan have been published in the *Gazette*—

BEFORE SEBASTOPOL, March 8, 1855.

My Lord,—The enemy continue to manifest great activity in preparing the work which I mentioned to your Lordship in my despatch (No. 187), and are now bringing up platform timber and guns for the equipment and armament of it.

Vast convoys are daily observed arriving on the north side of the town; and I learn, from information entitled to credit, that the road leading from Simpheropol is covered with waggons laden with provisions and munitions of war.

This morning three British guns, placed in a battery overhanging the Tchernaya, opened upon two small steamers anchored at the head of the harbour, and, after a fire of about an hour, obliged them to take refuge behind a point. One of them appeared to have sustained considerable damage, and is supposed to have been deserted by her crew.

The weather was fine yesterday, and is particularly so to-day, and the country is becoming quite dry.

I have reason to hope that the sick are deriving material benefit from this change.

I have established a convalescent hospital on the heights immediately above Balaklava, near a fine spring of water.

The Inspector-General of Hospitals entertains great expectations of the advantages that will result from placing the huts in so healthy a locality.

Lieutenant-General Pennefather has resumed the command of the 2nd Division, and is, I am happy to be able to report, looking remarkably well.

I inclose the return of the casualties to the 4th instant.

I have, &c.,

The Lord Panmure, &c. RAGLAN.

The return of casualties from the 2nd to the 4th March includes, 1 rank and file killed; 1 sergeant, 5 rank and file wounded.

BEFORE SEBASTOPOL, March 10.

My Lord,—I have really nothing to report to your lordship this day.

I am happy, however, to be able to inform you that the weather is exceedingly fine, and that I entertain great hopes, derived from the reports of the principal medical officer, that the sick will materially benefit by the improvement in the temperature.

Our advanced batteries are making considerable progress.

Every effort is directed to the maintenance of the camps in a healthy state, which, as the warm weather approaches, becomes daily more important.

I enclose the return of casualties on the 8th inst.

I received on the evening of the 6th inst. a telegraphic despatch from Lord John Russell, dated Berlin, the 2nd, announcing the death of the Emperor of Russia at twelve o'clock on that day.

According to the information of deserters, the event has not been promulgated at Sebastopol.

I have, &c.,

The Lord Panmure, &c. RAGLAN.

Casualties from the 5th to the 8th of March, 1855, inclusive: 1 rank and file, killed; 1 sergeant, 3 rank and file, wounded.

The *Moniteur* of Monday contains the following despatch from the French Chargé d'Affaires:

CONSTANTINOPLE, March 12.

On the 10th the weather was fine at Sebastopol, and the new works were nearly completed.

A fire broke out last night in the buildings of the Ottoman military school, which, by permission of the Porte, we had converted into an hospital. The establishment, with its entire contents, was consumed; but no accident nor loss of life occurred. We cannot attribute this misfortune to any wilful act. The fire broke out in the kitchens.

Telegraphic advices from the Crimea of the 17th announce that Omar Pasha arrived at the camp of the Allies on the 12th. On the 13th, the Russians opened the fire of their batteries on the heights of Balaklava. The English, assisted by General Vinoy, routed them. On the 17th, the Russians attacked the whole line of the Allies, and were driven back with great loss. On the 15th March, an alliance was signed between Sardinia and the Ottoman Porte. Preparations were being made for the reception of the Emperor Napoleon.

General Osten Sacken reports to the Emperor that on the night of the 10th the Russians threw up another new redoubt about 300 yards in front of the Korniloff bastion. With the redoubts on the right side of Careening Bay and above the Bay of St. George, this makes the third aggressive work of the kind constructed by the enemy before Sebastopol within seventeen days.

Advices from Odessa of the 21st inst. state that the Russians, in spite of repeated attacks, maintain the position they had taken on Mount Sapouna on the 24th February, from which their guns play on the French lines of attack and upon part of the camp.

THE TURKS AT EUPATORIA.

The *Journal de Constantinople* publishes the following, under date of Eupatoria, March 5: "To-day, Skender Beg left Eupatoria with 300 irregular cavalry and 100 Tartar Bashi-Bazouks, to make a reconnaissance, and he was met by four strong squadrons of regular Russian cavalry. Notwithstanding the disproportion of numbers an obstinate struggle ensued. At last, hard pressed, Skender Beg was compelled to retreat, retiring slowly and fighting inch by inch of ground. In this affair the Russians lost about thirty men. The Tartars had made five prisoners, but they afterwards escaped. Skender Beg had only eleven men killed and two wounded, but he himself received a very severe wound. He received a sabre-cut on his right hand, which damaged three fingers and rendered amputation of a fourth necessary; he also received the thrust of a lance near the heart; but the most serious wound was a cut from a sabre across his forehead. No fears are, however, en-

tortured of saving the life of this brave and dashing cavalry officer. The fortifications of Eupatoria are being carried on with great activity, and will soon be terminated."

Correspondence in the daily papers state that Skender Beg was followed only by the Bashi-Bazouks in this charge; the Tartars, with few exceptions, remained stationary, while the Rediffs, after having followed for a while, and lost a few men through the fire of the enemy, turned back and ran. Now the Cossacks charged and drove back Rediffs, Tartars, and all. Skender Beg, who was only followed by two Bashi-Bazouks, had to cut his way back through the enemy, which he effected, but not without receiving a sabre cut over the forehead, which penetrated the skull, a lance-thrust, which glanced off from his breast, and a cut over the hand, which broke two of his fingers. Four Bashi-Bazouks, six Rediffs, and one Tartar were lost. The Turks, when reinforced, made no effort to repair the disaster.

Eupatoria begins inside as well as outside to assume the character of a fortress, and can now only be taken by a regular siege. The news of the death of the Emperor Nicholas created a great sensation at Eupatoria. Even the Turks and Tartars, forgetting *kismet* (fate), began to speculate what influence this unexpected circumstance would exert on the war. Wherever you went, in the streets or houses, it formed the matter of conversation. The news arrived on the 7th, and it was resolved to communicate it forthwith to the Russians. The interview is thus described:—

Sefer Pasha, who, since Skender Beg has been laid up with his wounds, has had the command of the advanced posts, went out towards evening with two squadrons of regular cavalry. Turning towards the right they proceeded up to the first mound occupied by the Turkish videttes, and, leaving it behind, went towards the corresponding mounds occupied by the Russians. Some distance from this mound the Turkish cavalry made halt on a little elevation of the ground. Sefer Pasha, accompanied by his staff, rode towards the bridge over the creek of Lako Sasik, where usually a squadron of Russian Lancers is posted. The Cossacks on vidette retired as usual slowly until they reached the ruined buildings on this side of the bridge. At some distance from them Sefer Pasha stopped, and sent a Polish officer, with a trumpeter, to invite the Russian commander of the outposts to meet him. The officer, waving his handkerchief, approached within hailing distance, and told the officers of the main guard his errand. The answer was that the commander was not present, but, after some consultation with the officer commanding the squadron of Lancers, it was determined to send for him. He came after a little time, and by a strange coincidence, happened to be an acquaintance of Sefer Pasha (General Hoscelsky), who had met him at Paris. The commander is General Prince Radzivil. He seemed to be startled by the news of the death of the Emperor, and said that they had only heard that he was ill. Sefer Pasha requested him to treat the Turkish prisoners well, as the Russians taken prisoners had nothing to complain of. The Prince answered that the request was unnecessary. . . . After many civilities, exchange of cigars, brandy, &c., both parties retired, the Turks certainly enchanted to find that the Russians seen in this light are not at all such ogres as one might think.

CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE CAMP.

IMPROVEMENT CONTINUES.

BALAKLAVA, March 10.—We are decidedly improving. The weather is as mild and dry, and the sun as warm, and the air, everywhere but in Balaklava, as pure as even the most fastidious can desire. The bottoms of our ravines and dells are covered with fresh green grass, and snowdrops and crocuses spring up on the mountain side. Stores of all sorts are rapidly pouring in, and another transport has arrived with about 300 fresh bat-horses and mules. Add to this that the old bat-horses and mules—those that arrived within the last two months—are in tolerable condition, and efficient for service. Two companies of artillery, of 130 men each, have also come; and it is stated in the regiments that large numbers of convalescents, ready to join, are waiting at Scutari and the other hospitals of the Bosphorus, until the weather shall be a little more settled, and the nights a little warmer—until, in short, their services are absolutely required for active operations, in which the Allied armies are to take the initiative.

The return of fine weather has changed the aspect of the camps; everybody is hopeful and everybody is active. Not only do huts rise up with marvellous rapidity; not only do the baggage animals, at length properly stabled and fed, tread up to camp with a celerity to which we have long been unaccustomed; not only are heavy guns safely and expeditiously conveyed in the same direction, without the breaking of gun carriages, without sticking in the mud, or any other of those numerous accidents which have come to be considered as matters of course in the transport of heavy artillery; but field sports, too, have commenced, and show in their rapid progress that John Bull under arms is himself again. Dog-hunting began about a fortnight ago. It is carried on with great spirit and perseverance. The meets are frequent and well attended; as there is plenty of horse-flesh to be had for the taking, the dogs are in excellent condition, and give the sportsmen very hard runs. A good many horses, however, are still low and weak, and drop off in the progress of the hunt. Very few are in at the death—that is to say, when the dog, declaring himself to be dead beat, sits down on his hind legs, panting, and with his tongue lolling out of his mouth, resignedly awaiting the coming up of the riders, who on these occasions pat the sagacious animal, expressing to it in the most complimentary manner, their satisfaction with the splendid run it has given them.—*Daily News Correspondent.*

ABUNDANCE IN THE CAMP.

It is unfortunately just in proportion as they do not want them that comforts and even luxuries are showered upon them. In this weather a tent is as

good as—some say better than—a hut. Where were the huts when the snow was on the ground, and where was the warm clothing when cold rains and bitter winds racked the joints? Just where our fresh meat and vegetables were when scurvy and scorbutic dysentery were raging in the canvas cantonment before Sebastopol. From hunger, unwholesome food, and comparative nakedness, the camp is plunged into a sea of abundance, filled with sheep and sheepskins, wooden huts, furs, comforters, mufflers, flannel shirts, tracts, soups, preserved meats, potted game, and spirits. Nay, it is even true that a store of Dalby's Carminative, of respirators, and of jujubes, has been sent out to the troops. The two former articles have been issued under the sanction of Dr. Hall, and he has given instructions that the doctors shall report on the effects of the first-named of them. Where the jujubes came from I know not, but if things go on at this rate, we may soon hear complaints that our Grenadiers have been left for several days without their Godfrey's Cordial and Soothing Syrup, and that the Dragoons have been shamefully ill-supplied with Daffey's Elixir. "Hit high—hit low—there is no pleasing him;" but really the fact is that the army is overdone with Berlin wool and flannel, and is ill-provided with leather. The men still want good boots and waterproofs, for there is a rainy season coming, and the trenches will soon be full of mud and slush, more fatal by far than mere cold. Medicine is not deficient at present, and there is an unfortunately large demand for the remedies against the ravages of low fever. Mutton and beef are so abundant that the men get fresh meat about three times a week. Some of the mutton, &c., brought to the Crimea ready killed, is excellent. Potatoes, cabbages, and carrots, are served out pretty frequently, as the cargoes arrive, and the patients in hospital are seldom or never left short of vegetables.—*Times Correspondent.*

THE SIEGE WORKS.

Our siege works are a kind of Penelope's web. They are always approaching completion, and never (or at least very slowly) attaining it. The matter is in this wise: Our engineers now and then see a certain point to be gained by the erection of a work or battery at a particular place. The plans are made and the working parties are sent down, and after a few casualties the particular work is executed; but, as it generally happens that the enemy are quite alive to our proceedings, without waiting for their copies of the *Times*, we find that the Russians have, by the time the work is finished, thrown up another work to enfilade or to meet our guns with a direct or angular fire. Then it becomes necessary to do something to destroy the advantageous position of the enemy, and fresh plans are drawn up, and more trenches are dug and parapets erected. The same thing takes place as before, and the process may be almost indefinite but for the space of soil. The front of Sebastopol, between English, French, and Russians, looks like a huge graveyard, covered with freshly-made mounds of dark earth in all directions. . . . I do not see much likelihood of our batteries being opened for a short time, even if the French were quite ready; in fact, all speculation with respect to future operations is hazardous, and will be most likely falsified by events. A few days' rain may upset the most elaborate and minute calculations, and in that respect the Generals are nearly as apt to err as the subalterns. Every material for carrying on a siege—guns, carriages, platforms, powder, shot, shell, gabions, fascines, scaling ladders—is here in abundance. The artillery force is highly efficient, notwithstanding the large proportion of young gunners. Our engineers, if not quite so numerous as they ought to be, are active and energetic, and our army must now consist of nearly 20,000 bayonets, owing to the great number of men discharged from the hospitals here, and returned fit for duty, and to the drafts which have been received.—*Ibid.*

BALAKLAVA TRANSFORMED.

The improvements in Balaklava will evidently cease only with the utter destruction of the remnants of that ill-fated village. Every day wooden huts and sheds spring up, mushroom-like, over the ruins of the houses. The navy, his barrow and pick-axe, are in possession, and he is "master of the situation." The noise of "blasts" in the rock, the ring of hammers, the roll of the train, the varying din of labour sound all around the harbour. The railway has crept up the hill, about three miles outside the town, and two engines have been dragged up to the top of the greatest elevation which the engineers will have to surmount, and will speedily be at work, moving the drum to drag up the heavy trains laden with shot and shell and provisions. These have been already sent up to the terminus in considerable quantities. The transport service is assuming form and substance under the hands of Colonel M'Murdo and Mr. Herbert, who are provided with a staff, and means and power denied to the one commissariat officer, who has been relieved from the duties of the post he struggled so energetically, but so unsuccessfully, to fill. The roads are improved in all directions.—*Ibid.*

SCRAPS AND GOSSIP.

Our new mortar batteries and those of the French have for two nights been playing upon the harbour. It was commonly reported in camp that they had sunk one of the Russian ships. It was even asserted that the Twelve Apostles had been blown up. On inquiry, I find that one of the small steamers that used to ply about in the harbour had been hit by several of our shells; that the Russians withdrew her, and that another steamer took her place. So whether she is burned, or sunk, or merely disabled, is an open question.

It is impossible to use the fitting terms in describ-

ing the greed of the majority of our transport captains and the unfair advantages they have at all times taken of the necessities of the army, to such an extent that the advent of two Maltese and Ionian traders was hailed as a piece of good fortune.

Not merely the roads, but the fields and plains, are now fit for the transport of artillery and provisions. It is strange we get up so few convalescents from Scutari. The hospitals there seem to swallow up the sick for ever. The men in Balaklava do better, and the weather has effected a marked improvement in the health of the men in the field hospitals. The cavalry and artillery horses are beginning to look a little better—the mange and sore backs are decreasing.

There is not a regiment out here that has not some known or secret benefactor in the generous mother islands, whose care and bounty have provided them with luxuries and comforts beyond all price to the sickening and declining soldier. Some have sent tobacco, others wine; some brandy, others butter; some hams or cheese, others arrowroot; all clothing.

The medical service has sustained a great loss in the death of Dr. Chillee Pine, for many years in the 4th Royal Irish Dragoon Guards, and lately acting as Principal Medical Officer of the Second Division. His death took place on Monday at the residence of Dr. Anderson, in Balaklava, and was mainly owing to disease contracted on service in the East Indies aided by low fever. Dr. Fenwick, a much-loved officer of the 14th Regiment, also died of fever, to the great regret of all the officers and men.

A restaurant in a wooden hut has been opened for officers at Vanity or Donnybrook Fair, near Kadikol.

I rode over to Kamiesch (the French harbour) the other day, and was much disappointed; except that they have many more advantages in having much better landing-places; it is not in a much better state than Balaklava now is, but the latter place has improved vastly since the *Times* blow up our staff out here.

I have received a great many newspapers lately, they are an immense boon out here, and are read by every one in the regiment nearly; they finally go to the hospital for the poor fellows to read.

Spring is gradually coming in; the ground is covered with crocuses, and to-day, March 6, is what we should call warm for May in England; but yet there is snow lying in some of the shady places beneath the rocks.

SCHAMYL AND HIS RUSSIAN CAPTIVES.

The following curious story is related in a Vienna paper: "Some time ago, it was publicly stated that Schamyl had demanded from the late Emperor Nicholas that his son, who was serving in the Imperial Palace of St. Petersburg, in the corps of pages, should be put at liberty. The thing was brought about in this way: Last year, the Princess Tscharawaddy, and several other ladies, were taken prisoners by the Circassians, and carried into the mountains. The governor of Tiflis, and several distinguished families in the country, proposed to Schamyl to exchange these ladies against a considerable ransom and the liberty of several Circassian prisoners. Schamyl replied that he only required in exchange his son, who had been eleven years in St. Petersburg, where he had been educated as a page without having abjured the Mohammedan faith. The Emperor Nicholas asked young Schamyl himself whether he desired to return to his father, and thereby to put at liberty eight Russian ladies. The young Circassian consented, and so much the more willingly as the mothers of two of the pages, his comrades, were among the prisoners. Young Schamyl accordingly quitted St. Petersburg, loaded with presents, and the Russian ladies were released by the Circassians, in the month of January last."

THE VIENNA CONFERENCE.

The continental newspapers continue to repeat that the Allies have ceased to insist on the dismantling of Sebastopol; and journals which have been with Russia throughout the contest now admire the "conciliating intentions" of the Allies. It is understood that the plenipotentiaries at Vienna have come to a general understanding on the sense of the two first points, and that the critical "third point"—that on which the question of peace or war turns—is now approached.

In the Brussels journal, the *Indépendance Belge* which M. Drouyn de l'Huys is believed to select as a special channel for conveying the impressions he desires to produce on the public mind, a letter has recently appeared, calculated, and doubtless intended, to prepare the public for some such event. That communication is, in all probability, but the first sketch of a coming State paper—at least, so it is considered by those who are aware of the relations existing between the Foreign-office and the journal. It argues the question at some length, and the conclusion arrived at is that the object of our expedition can be attained without the capture of Sebastopol.

The following is the interpretation given to the third point by England, France, and Austria, on the 27th December:—

The object of the revision of the treaty of July 13, 1841, should be more completely to attach the existence of the Ottoman empire to the European balance of power, and to put an end to the preponderance of Russia in the Black Sea. The arrangements to be made in this matter depend too immediately on the events of the war for their bases to be settled at present. It is sufficient to have indicated the principle.

The following is the form of Prince Gortschakoff's acceptance of the same on the 7th January:—

Revision of the treaty of the 13th July, 1841, to attach more completely the existence of the Ottoman empire to the balance of Europe. I do not refuse to come to an understanding in formal conferences for peace, on the means which the three Courts may propose to put an end to what they call the preponderance of Russia in the

Black Sea, on condition that, in the choice of those means, there be not one of a nature to infringe upon the rights of sovereignty of my august master on his own territory.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

I hear that Marshal St. Arnaud's family are preparing an answer to the Brussels pamphlet, in so far as the military reputation of the late commander is attacked by that publication. They are prepared, it is said, to show that the Marshal's plan of marching upon Sebastopol immediately after the victory of the Alma was thoroughly practical, and that the Russians themselves were equally astonished and delighted that it was not carried into execution.—*Daily News Paris Correspondent.*

The Sanitary Commissioners, Dr. Gavin, Dr. Sutherland, and Mr. Rawlinson, reached Constantinople, after a quick passage, on the 6th March. They were about to make a rapid survey of the condition of the Spatari and Kuluca hospitals, and then proceed as speedily as possible to the seat of war.

General Vivian, the Commander-in-Chief of the Turkish Contingent, left town on Saturday for the East. A great number of the officers of the Contingent are now on their way to Constantinople.

The flying squadron left Spithead on Monday week, for the Downs, on its way to the Baltic. This squadron consists of the *Impérieuse*, 51, the *Euryalus*, 51, the *Ark*, 21, the *Tartar*, 21, the *Archer*, 15, and the *Conflict*, 8. Captain Watson, of the *Impérieuse*, commands the squadron. The Queen and Prince Albert, on board the *Fairy*, received Captain Watson before he sailed, and led his squadron out to sea. There were crowds of spectators ashore and afloat. The squadron anchored in the Downs on Thursday. Its progress had been delayed by a strong north-east gale. In the course of Tuesday night, the *Esk* ran into the *Arrogant*, and so damaged herself that she had to return to Spithead: on Wednesday, one of the boilers of the *Impérieuse* burst; but the damage was instantly repaired.

At a recent meeting in Gloucester, Mr. Sturge and Mr. Bowley, well known members of the Peace Society, failed in carrying resolutions urging the Government to make peace. A strong resolution was carried urging the Government "to prosecute the war with the utmost vigour and energy, so as to obtain at the earliest period the great object for which it was undertaken." In a second resolution, the misfortunes of the army were attributed to our defective commissariat and medical system; and the system of promotion by purchase was condemned.

General Monet, who distinguished himself in the attack on the Malakoff Plateau in the night of February 23-24, and received five wounds, is now made a General of Division.

It is stated that Russian ships of the line and other vessels have been sunk between piles in the navigation way at Cronstadt.

Professor Simpson, of Edinburgh, has been requested by Lord Panmure to provide the medical officers requisite for the formation of another civil hospital in the East. He will be required, it seems, to select physicians, surgeons, assistant-physicians, assistant-surgeons, apothecaries, and male and female nurses.

On Wednesday, the motion in the Second Chamber at Berlin for presenting an address to the King, censuring the Ministerial policy on the Eastern question, was rejected. A prolongation of the credits for the expenses of the present year was voted.

The *Morning Advertiser* states that Lord Dundonald's plan for destroying Cronstadt has been accepted by the Government. It will be put to the test towards the end of June or early in July, fine weather being essential.

A large quantity of Mr. Hale's war rockets are now being manufactured by order of Government, for the use of the British army in the Crimea. These missiles can be projected a distance of three miles, with the certainty of aim of the Minié bullet.

The French garrison at Rome has furnished another regiment for service in the Crimea. The 21st, 1,900 strong, marched away early on the morning of the 14th instant. The garrison at Rome is now reduced to three battalions, which are concentrated in the neighbourhood of the Castle of St. Angelo and the Vatican. A fourth battalion is stationed at Civita Vecchia.

On Tuesday, the Emperor of the French reviewed a large body of the Imperial Guard, numbering from 6,000 to 8,000. The infantry was drawn up in the court-yard of the Tuilleries, the cavalry on the Place du Carrousel. The Emperor rode along the lines, followed by Prince Napoleon, Marshals Vaillant and Magnan, the Prussian General Baron de Wedell, the Austrian General de Crennoville, and a brilliant staff of generals and aides-de-camp. The Empress looked on from the balcony. The colonels commanding battalions advanced to the flags, and the Emperor addressed them as follows:—

Soldiers.—The army is the true nobility of our country. It preserves intact from age to age the traditions of glory and national honour. Therefore this (pointing to the colours) is your genealogical tree! It marks a new victory for every generation. Take, then, these colours. I confide them to your honour, your courage, and your patriotism.

These words elicited the most enthusiastic applause. The Empress made a present of 10*fr.* to every soldier on the ground.

The *Times* correspondent at Constantinople, in his letter of the 8th, says of the news of the Czar's death: "As far as a few hours enable one to judge, the Turkish authorities are sanguine and elated at the prospect opened by the death of the Muscovite Emperor; and certainly the Mussulmans themselves greet with joy the deliverance at once from an

hereditary enemy, and the intolerable protectorate of too powerful allies."

The Russian commander at Reni having recently prohibited vessels from navigating the Lower Danube, Prince Gortschakoff has informed Count Baul that that officer has been disavowed, and that new orders should be immediately sent to the Russian functionaries on the Danube.

Messrs. Cox and Painter, of Great Malvern, have received from a lady residing there a cheque for 1,000*fr.*, to be forwarded to Miss Nightingale at Scutari, to be applied by her as she considers necessary.

Foreign and Colonial.

RUSSIA.

DIPLOMATIC MANIFESTO.

The following note from Count Nesselrode to the Ministers of Russia at Foreign Courts has been published. It professes to be a manifesto to Europe of the intentions entertained by the new Emperor, and is the first official paper which has appeared on the subject:—

ST. PETERSBURG, March 10.

My despatch, of the 2nd inst., will have informed you of the accession of his Majesty the Emperor Alexander II. I also, at the same time, had the honour of sending you the manifesto of our illustrious sovereign, issued on the first day of his reign.

This document expresses his Majesty's profound sense of the importance of the duties which he is called to fulfil. Those duties have been imposed on him by Divine Providence in the midst of severe trials. Ascending the throne of his ancestors, he beholds Russia involved in a war, the like of which occurring in a new reign history cannot produce.

Our illustrious Sovereign accepts these trials, trusting in God, confiding securely in the unwavering devotedness of his people, and filled with religious reverence for the memory of his much-loved father.

In a child-like spirit of piety he accepts as his heritage two obligations, which, in his eyes, are equally sacred. The first demands from his Majesty the employment of all the power which the will of God has placed in his hands for the defence of the integrity and honour of Russia. The second imposes on his Majesty the duty of steadily devoting his care to the completion of that work of peace, the bases of which were sanctioned by the Emperor Nicholas.

Faithful to the ideas which predominated in the last dispositions and arrangements of his illustrious father, the Emperor has renewed and confirmed the instructions with which the Plenipotentiary of Russia had been provided from December until the time when the Vienna Conferences were to have been opened. In this way the intentions of the Emperor Nicholas are certain to be fulfilled. Their aim was—

To restore to Russia and Europe the blessings of peace. To confirm the freedom of worship and the welfare of the Christian peoples of the East, without distinction of rite.

To place the immunities of the Principalities under a collective guarantee.

To secure the free navigation of the Danube in favour of the trade of all nations.

To put an end to the rivalries of the Great Powers respecting the East, in such manner as to preclude the return of new complications.

Finally, to come to an understanding with the Great Powers respecting the revision of the treaties by which they have recognised the principle of closing the Dardanelles and the Bosphorus, and in this way to arrive at an honourable settlement.

A peace concluded upon such a basis as this, since it would terminate the calamities of war, would call forth the blessings of all nations upon the new Government. Russia, however, feels deeply, and all Europe must acknowledge the fact, that the hope of a restoration of peace would prove vain, if the conditions of an adjustment should overpass that just limit which a sense of the dignity of the Crown led our august Lord to fix irrevocably.

The Emperor will wait tranquillity until the cabinets called to deliberate in common with Russia on this question of universal interest for all Christendom shall declare the views by which their policy will be guided.

Our august Lord will enter upon these important deliberations in a sincere spirit of concord; this is the declaration which I am expressly commissioned by his Majesty to make to you in his name.

The general instructions with which you are provided prescribe to you the course which you are to continue to follow in your intercourse with the Governments to which you are accredited. The Emperor, in confirming you in the post to which you were appointed by the grace of his illustrious father, relies implicitly on your fidelity and zeal. It is his desire that on all occasions your conduct and language should bear witness to the loyalty with which Russia regards obligations involving fidelity to treaties; to its constant desire to live on good terms with all allied and friendly Powers; and, finally, to its reverence for the inviolability of the rights of every state, as well as its firm resolve to maintain intact and make respected those rights which Divine Providence has intrusted to the Emperor in making him the protector of the honour of the nation.

You are instructed to bring this to the knowledge of the Court at which you had the honour to represent the Emperor Nicholas of glorious and much-loved memory.

NESSELRODE.

The Emperor's funeral on the 11th inst. passed off in perfect order. The ceremony was splendid. A large bell in the Kremlin at Moscow fell to the ground at the moment when the ceremony of swearing allegiance to the new Emperor was going on, and crushed nearly one hundred persons. Superstitious fears were much roused by this event.

In a letter direct from St. Petersburg, dated the 9th instant, a striking passage from a speech made by the Emperor Alexander is reported:—

The deputation of the nobility having presented themselves, in order to render an account to his Majesty of the election of the chiefs of the militia, were harangued with much warmth. The discourse terminated thus: "I solemnly declare that I will not give up a single inch of

Russian territory to our enemies. I will take good care to prevent their penetrating further on the soil of our country; and never, never—may my hand wither first!—will I affix my signature to a treaty which shall bring the slightest dishonour on the national honour." These words were spoken with a tone and energy of vehemence which excited among all present the most rapturous applause.

The *Journal de St. Petersburg* of the 14th inst. announces the arrival at the Russian capital of the Grand Dukes Nicholas and Michael from the Crimea. The *St. Petersburg Gazette* announces the arrival of special envoys from the different petty Courts of Germany, to lay their homage at the feet of the new Emperor.

AMERICA.

The *Times* New York correspondent, writing on the 7th inst., says:—

The last session of the 33rd Congress closed on the morning of Sunday last in unusual quiet and attention to business. Probably there has not been a more decent termination of a session for many years. Most of the members were going back to private life, stranded by the waves of the Know-Nothing or the Anti-Nebraska excitement; and, feeling sore at losing office, were seriously disposed to do business. The rotunda, lobbies, and passage-ways were, as usual, crowded with persons interested in schemes for plundering the public treasury—such as the Bounty Land Bill, &c.; but the members conducted themselves with unusual propriety. Few were drunk, notwithstanding the session lasted for twenty-five hours, and there were no fights. They sat there all this while, the debris of papers, apple-parings, orange-peels, cigar-stumps, and tobacco-juice accumulating about them, working through the mass of business on the calendar, until the hour came for the fall of the curtain; and now the first Congress of President Pierce's Administration is a thing of the past, and the Congress of the Know-Nothings has come into power.

The official correspondence respecting the Ostend Conference of American Ambassadors in Europe, has been published. It exhibits an affected jealousy of England and France in regard to Cuba, and an intention on the part of the United States Government to have the island by fair means or foul. The upshot of the affair was the following resolution, which was come to by the American diplomats: "After we shall have offered Spain a price for Cuba far beyond its present value, and this shall have been refused, it will then be time to consider the question, 'Does Cuba in the possession of Spain seriously endanger our internal peace, and the existence of our cherished union?' And then they add: 'Should the question be answered in the affirmative, then by every law, human and divine, we shall be justified in wresting it from Spain, if we possess the power.' Such is the ultimatum of the conferences at Ostend and Aix-la-Chapelle.

M. Soulé had declined the invitation of the Cuba Junta to a public demonstration in his honour.

The New York papers publish particulars of a filibustering expedition against Ecuador. The leading spirit is ex-senator Jere. Clemens, of Alabama, to whom the material of the army and navy is to be entrusted—having, as backers, an American force of twelve hundred men, equipped for fighting purposes—himself to lead the land force, while the gallant Alvarado Hunter is to command the navy."

According to advices from Havana of the 4th, matters were all quiet throughout the island, and business appeared to be recovering. The United States steam frigates *San Jacinto* and *Princeton* were at Havana. The markets had undergone but little change, the blockade of the ports preventing free supplies of sugar.

The *New York Herald* assures its readers that in Mexico Santa Anna is daily losing, and Alvarez gaining ground. Santa Anna holds several steamers ready to receive him on the approach of the revolutionists. Santa Anna has sent what he could of the seven millions received from the United States out of the country, together with all his valuables, and has sold the three millions yet to be paid to Mexico.

Rumours were prevalent in Honduras of filibuster expeditions from the United States for the invasion of the Mosquito country, and of the design of General Carrera to subdue and annex the State of Honduras to Guatemala. Another demonstration on Greytown was also apprehended.

FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

The *Moniteur* contains a note from Constantinople, stating that the French embassy had obtained from the Porte an authorisation to build Catholic churches at Trebizonde, Méidin, Mersine, and Bingasi. The necessary firmans have been sent to the competent authorities.

Two trials of the French governess of the children of Dr. Marsden, an Englishman in Paris, have attracted some attention. The governess, Mademoiselle Doudet, cruelly ill-used the children, and one girl died. The first trial was for murder: the cruelty was proved, but she was acquitted on that charge. Tried again, on a charge of cruelty, she was convicted; and she is now in the prison of St. Lazare, to remain there for two years. Many witnesses of station testified to this woman's character; and at her trial she produced a certificate said to have been given to her by Queen Victoria, setting forth her virtues, and advising her to resign her employment as keeper of the Royal jewels, that she might devote herself to the higher task of tuition. The genuineness of this document has not been ascertained.

Accounts from the Cape to Jan. 22, confirm those previously received regarding the restoration of tranquillity. Sir George Grey, the newly-appointed Governor, was making a tour of inspection through the frontier districts. The Cape Parliament was to assemble in March. The copper mines were prosperous.

We learn from Constantinople that Lord Stratford de Redcliffe is recovering from his indisposition.

It is stated in a letter from Vienna, in the *German Journal of Frankfurt*, that Abd-el-Kader has requested permission to pay a visit to Constantinople.

The Duke and Duchess of Brabant, after an excursion of twenty days in Upper Egypt, returned to Cairo. Their Royal Highnesses have since visited Suez.

Rumours circulated some days ago of a conspiracy having been discovered, the object of which was to assassinate the Emperor of the French, and of many arrests being made. It is true that from fifty to sixty persons have been taken into custody on such a charge. Among them are a professor of literature, two or three letter-carriers, and the rest belong to the lowest class of Socialists.

The visit of the Emperor of the French to England has been decided, and in official quarters it is affirmed that it will take place on Easter Monday. As for the journey to the Crimea, nothing more can be said than that it is likely to depend on the turn matters take at Vienna.—*Times Correspondent*.

M. Thiers and General Changarnier persist in denying the truth of M. Veron's statement (backed by M. Morny) as to their complicity in a plot for the violent dissolution of the National Assembly. Changarnier's letter is indignant and positive.

The Pope has put forth no excommunication as yet against the promoters or ratifiers of the obnoxious anti-monastic law in Piedmont; indeed, his attention is rather diverted by the strong proceedings of the same character in Spain, which will probably induce a suspension of diplomatic relations between the Holy See and the Government of that country also.

Lynch law prevails more than ever in California; within a few weeks twenty offenders were hanged without legal trial.

The private expedition sent from Sydney to Guadalcanar in search of Mr. Benjamin Boyd, who was reported to be alive, has been fruitless. The natives produced a skull which they said was Mr. Boyd's, and they were paid a considerable sum for it. But when it was examined at Sydney it was pronounced not to be Mr. Boyd's—most probably it was the skull of a native. Another expedition was contemplated.

The Session of the French Corps Legislatif is prolonged from March 25th to the 11th April, in order to provide time for deliberating upon important laws.

A fresh caravan of pilgrims to the Holy Land have embarked on board the Egyptian steam-ship at Marseilles. Among the party are Count de Rotterdam, of Pirmont (Belgium), president; M. H. Pélé, of Castres sur l'Agout, Vice President; the Abbé Gilard, of Boé (Lot-et-Garonne), Chaplain; and E. de Verges, of Paris, Treasurer; Regnon, of Nantes, Secretary; Count de Boisrenaud, of Paris; Counts G. and Arthur de Buisseret, and Count E. de la Barre, of Brussels, &c. Previously to their departure they were all invited to the palace of the Bishop of Marseilles, when each of them received from that prelate a small silver cross bearing the date of their departure. Another caravan is to be organised to leave at the end of August.

Letters from Athens mention the discovery of 300 antique statues, or fragments of sculpture, recently brought to light by excavations at Argos, on the site of the Temple of Juno. These precious remains of ancient art have been recovered by the Greek Government; and if it had any large spirit or interest in archaeology, Argos possesses within its classic soil quarries of invaluable works of sculpture buried in the ruins of the ancient city, and which might be reclaimed at no great cost.

Nearly 500 Chinese, who were passengers on board a vessel lost on Bampton shoals, bound for Australia, were drowned. The master and eight men only were saved.

THE SEBASTOPOL INQUIRY.

Dr. Andrew Smith, chief of the medical board, was the only witness examined on Tuesday. He gave evidence as to the organisation and working of that board. He received special and independent directions from the Commander-in-Chief, the Ministry of War, and the Board of Ordnance. There had been a perpetual conflict of authority on the subject of the purchase of stores, of clothing, and of medical comforts supplied to the purveyor of an hospital. He had only to send in a requisition of what was wanted, everything else being taken out of his hands; and he did not know whether the stores were properly shipped by the Board of Ordnance. He had no control over the hospitals at Scutari. The purveyor there had full power to purchase articles urgently wanted; but he thought there was some misunderstanding as to the authority of the purveyor, who considered himself supreme in his own department, and Dr. Smith was obliged to appeal to the War Office to have the matter rectified. With regard to his telling Mr. Macdonald that nothing was wanting in the hospitals in the East, he made that statement because his letters led him to believe that the medical authorities had everything they required, and he was aware that large quantities of stores of all kinds had been sent out. The want of bedding and other things stated by Mr. Stafford and Mr. Macdonald ought to have been remedied by the purveyor, who had full instructions to purchase any necessities that might be required. The purveyor thought he ought not to be dictated to by the medical officers; and he supposed that it was from this conflict of authority that the neglect complained of arose. Medical officers feared to stretch their authority too far. If he (Dr. Smith) had been the medical officer in charge, he would have compelled the purveyor to purchase things that were necessary. Whether the medical officer had the power or not, the commander of the forces there certainly had. He suspected that it was from no want of care for the soldiers that this neglect occurred, but from an undue timidity on the part of those concerned. That timidity and

that hesitation were attributable to the system, and led to the greatest calamities. The purveyor was not a medical officer; nor did he (Dr. Smith) appoint him. If there had only been one department with authority, he (Dr. Smith) could have done his work in half the time. He would have known to whom he was responsible; and the public would have known upon whom to fix the blame for any failure.—The committee adjourned till Thursday.

On Thursday, Dr. Andrew Smith's examination was resumed.—He (witness) did not believe the statement in the newspapers of a want of lint; and he received a communication from the chief apothecary at Scutari, stating that there was plenty of lint and bandages, after every wounded man was dressed, after the battle of the Alma. A letter written to him by one of the surgeons represented that there was no ground for astonishment or regret as to the supplies of lint, &c., being scarce, that the representations in the public prints on this score were false and unfounded, and giving these statements the most unqualified contradiction. Dr. Hall, in another letter, denied that application had ever been made to the French for supplies of lint, &c., and said that there was no necessity for it, as there was a supply then on hand to meet double the demand. He thought these letters gave a direct refutation to the statements of Mr. Stafford and Mr. Macdonald on this subject. He said it most decidedly, and was prepared to prove it, that no medical officer or any of the staff was to blame for these things; and he was bound, from the communications he received, to consider that there was a sufficiency all the time of medical comforts and appliances. He considered himself in no way responsible for the failure or success of the hospital at Scutari, and he asked Mr. Sidney Herbert's permission to throw off all responsibility with reference to the hospital, although he was the head of the medical department and responsible to the public for its efficiency and management. The answer he received from Mr. Sidney Herbert discharged him in his judgment from all responsibility concerning the hospital at Scutari. He considered his main duty to be the supply of an adequate amount of medicine. The Ordnance were responsible for the transmission of the medical stores, and the medicines on being packed were examined by the proper medical officers. He did not issue any regulations as to cholera, leaving the matter to those he appointed out in the Crimea. It had been stated that the ambulances were very inconvenient, but he had it from Colonel Torrens, one of the first conveyed in them from Inkermann or Balaklava, that he was astonished how comfortable they were—so far as comfort could accrue to a person in his position. Most of them were narrow, but to put a wounded man in a wide space where he could roll about would be to kill him. Nearly double the number of medical officers had been sent out with the expedition to the East that had before gone with any army from this country. Nearly 2,000 officers and soldiers, wounded in the Crimea, had returned; and several surgeons (civilians) who had visited the hospitals where these men now were, had expressed to him their great astonishment at the success which had attended the operations performed on them, performed as those operations had been under circumstances of the greatest difficulty. He had not recently received any hint that it would be well for him to resign his office. He had been told that the medical department of the army was to be re-organised, and when he was told in what way it was to be re-organised, he said he must beg to retire from the appointment he held, because he could not consent to hold his appointment after that organisation was effected.

On Friday, the Committee examined at great length the Rev. Sidney Godolphin Osborne, who went out to Scutari "to render what assistance he could in the hospitals there." The general drift of his testimony strongly confirmed the evidence of Mr. Stafford and Mr. Macdonald, especially as regards the want of "head" and "system." He added a few new facts to those previously known, bringing others into stronger relief. The condition of the men's linen was as dirty as was conceivable. He had seen men take off their shirts and hide them about their beds, so ashamed were they of them; and he had given them the shirt off his back. He had frequently collected the shirts thus abandoned by them! and, fitly though they were, he was obliged to hide them about his dress as he took them away, because if he had walked along the ward with them over his arm he should have been besieged with applications for them from the sick lying around. The dead-house was so situated that the dead were obliged to be carried along one part of the hospital amid lines of beds on which the living were laid. He had not the least doubt that the great amount of deaths in the wards arose from the irregularity with which the poor creatures were fed. He had known some of them not get food until five or six o'clock in the day. He himself had fed the sick on landing from the transports; who assured him that they had not got food for three or four hours. He had also seen some of the sick lying on the beach for six hours before beds were found for them in the hospital. He had seen case after case of men landing from the transports, not fit to walk ten yards, who were compelled to walk a distance of upwards of seventy yards to the hospitals, from the want of stretchers. After the battle of Inkermann, witness worked for hours with his coat off with others in getting sacking and filling it with chaff for beds for the reception of the wounded who were coming from the Crimea. He met Lord Stratford at the hospital a few days after he arrived. He had some conversation with him as to the state of the hospital; during which he turned round to Dr. Macgregor, who was present, and said, "Did not I say to you, that for whatever was wanted in the hospital you were to apply to me?" Dr. Macgregor intimated assent. Mr.

Osborne believed no man worked harder than Lord Stratford did in his capacity of Ambassador. One day, for instance, when witness called upon him, he took up a large bundle of papers and said, "Look here; this is a plan for putting down extortions in the Turkish dominions, and I have to look over and consider the whole of it to-day." Mr. Osborne thought it was altogether wrong to have put an Ambassador in the position of Lord Stratford in reference to the hospitals. He should not have been put in a position resembling that of a commandant, as it were, of an army hospital. He had no doubt that if a fit person had been sent out from England to superintend the hospitals at Scutari, they might have been what they ought to be. He thought that, but for the *Times*' fund, Miss Nightingale, and himself, the condition of the hospital would have been most disastrous. Undoubtedly, the force of public opinion did lead to improvement at these hospitals. He had never been able to account for the scarcity of stores; in fact, he doubted if all of them had been sent out from England. The matter, however, would not be satisfactorily cleared until it was put in the hands of a very different inquiry than any of which he had heard. The Chairman said: "You mean the hands of the police?" (Laughter.)—Mr. Osborne: "Yes." The committee adjourned till Monday.

The principal part of Monday was occupied with the further examination of Dr. Andrew Smith, Director-General of the Medical Department of the Army, and his evidence, in some parts perfectly inaudible, was pretty much an amplification of facts elicited on previous examinations. Dr. Smith stated, that Mr. Wreford, who was sixty-four years of age, was the youngest purveyor they had in the East. Dr. Monzie, Deputy Inspector-General of Hospitals, was also examined, and testified to the shocking state of Scutari Hospital. He had all the public correspondence of the hospitals to carry on; he had, moreover, certain routine duties to discharge. He had constant communications to keep up with the commandant of the various medical men. He admitted having made a report to Lord Stratford that nothing was wanted in the hospitals.

PEACE MEETING AT MANCHESTER.

(From the *Manchester Examiner*.)

The fourth of the current series of weekly meetings to consider the general policy and the commercial and social effects of the present war, was held on Monday night, in the Peace Society's room, at Newall's Buildings, in this city. As before, George Wilson, Esq. presided over the meeting, which presented a goodly company.

Mr. Wilson, after giving some particulars in reference to the memorial to Lord Palmerston, which had received 11,000 signatures in a couple of days, in spite of certain practical difficulties with which the parties collecting them had to contend, drew attention to the Vienna Conference, from which he augured favourable results; for he firmly believed that Lord John Russell would never have accepted the appointment of representative of Her Majesty at that Conference, unless he anticipated that his efforts would be attended with something like success. It was necessary that the people should assist the Government by an open expression of opinion. There was a marked change, he was happy to perceive, in public opinion. There were very few now to be met with who made the taking of Sebastopol preliminary to the settlement of the question; and he did not think that the basis of the four points rested upon such decision. He did not believe that Lord John would have entered upon such a responsible service, bound down by a French policy, and there was nothing to indicate that the Emperor of the French was opposed to a peaceful arrangement. Mr. Wilson was of opinion that the people of England collectively were not as much in favour of the war as they had been of other great movements; for where did we find great demonstrations such as at the time of the Reform Bill and on other exciting occasions.

Mr. EDMUND ASHWORTH congratulated the meeting on the altered tone of feeling with reference to the war which was prevalent throughout. He noticed the rapid increase of destitution amongst the working-classes, and the fact that the poor-law unions generally throughout the country, whether in the manufacturing or agricultural districts, were subjected to a fearful increase of inmates. The middle-classes were quite as interested in a return of peace as were the working-class below them.

A resolution was passed in favour of engaging the Town Hall for the future meetings, the present room being too small for the numbers desiring to be present.

Mr. THOMASSON replied to remarks which had been made in certain quarters upon his statements at a former meeting. The inference he drew from those statements was: that a country like Russia could, it appeared to him, maintain the defence of her own territory for an indefinite period without any very serious difficulty; but that England would, at a very early period, be checked, and effectually checked, in carrying on the invasion of Russia, by the danger of civil commotion, and the necessity she would be under of forcibly coercing her own people into patient submission to intense and unavailing suffering, or as Mr. Bright so graphically described it, of "shooting her own people in the streets."

Mr. H. RICHARD, of London, gave the result of his devotion to the blue-books containing the history of the investigation, alluding to a pamphlet which he had in the press, in which he had prepared a brief summary of his examination of those documents. If there was one man more than another responsible for this war it was Lord Stratford de Redcliffe. It was plain by the documents referred to that we had been dragged into this war at the heels of the Turk, and he read several

letters showing how much opposed was Lord Clarendon to the spirit evinced by the Porte, and how satisfactory was the conduct of Russia; but our Government had given way to the demands of Turkey even contrary to their own conviction as to the necessity or the justice of the war. England was the last nation that should cry out against the aggressive spirit of other rulers, and he read extracts from French and American writers to show the estimate of these people as to the position England had so long assumed.

The Rev. Dr. DAVIDSON, of the Lancashire Independent College, referred to his presence at what might be called a political meeting, but he considered that peace concerned religion as much as it did commercial prosperity and social policy. He had always been opposed to this war, because he could not see either its justice or necessity. It was an invasion of Russia. Its injustice was particularly shown in the different views that people take throughout the country, as to what we are really fighting for. Permanent liberty had never been achieved by the sword. The sword exhausts liberty, and puts military despotism in its place. The balance of power, for which some said we were contending, was a nonsensical phrase, that no man could intelligibly explain. The balance of power was the equilibrium of nonsense. In the providence of God it was ordained that one nation should be stronger than another. Were we to constitute ourselves the judges? and when we thought a country too great, were we to invade it? The present war was entirely opposed to the teachings of Christ. The Turkish race was fast decaying, and it was impossible to prevent its extinction. The true policy of England was non-intervention, as declared in this room the other night by Mr. Bright. The charge of a want of patriotism had been brought against the Manchester school; but true patriotism consisted in trying to prevent such a war as this.

The Manchester memorial to Lord Palmerston urging the conclusion of an armistice during the process of the negotiations at Vienna, signed by upwards of 11,000 persons, was presented on Thursday last by a deputation, consisting of the Rt. Hon. T. M. Gibson, M.P.; J. Bright, Esq., M.P.; Sir E. Armitage; R. H. Greg, Esq.; T. Thomasson, Esq.; E. Ashworth, Esq.; the Revs. S. Davidson, D.D., LL.D.; F. Tucker, B.A.; W. Stokes; and several other gentlemen from this city and neighbourhood. His lordship received the deputation with his usual courtesy, and listened with attention to the addresses of the gentlemen who spoke on the occasion. The Rt. Hon. T. M. Gibson introduced the deputation, and stated, in a brief and clear manner, the nature and objects of the memorial. R. H. Greg, Esq. followed by reading the memorial, and recommended it to the Premier's attention in a few appropriate and weighty remarks. Mr. Bright, Mr. Ashworth, and Mr. Thomasson, each spoke at some length in support of the prayer of the memorial, and the two latter gentlemen especially dwelt on the disasters likely to accrue to this country should the present war be continued, and in an impressive manner appealed to some startling facts connected with the rapid increase of pauperism in the agricultural as well as the manufacturing districts. Lord Palmerston paid great attention to the statements of these gentlemen, and though, as it might have been expected, he would not admit that these symptoms of national distress were entirely owing to the war, it was evident that the addresses had made a deep impression on his mind. With regard to an armistice, he pleaded its unavailability on the somewhat singular ground that it would not effect the object of the memorialists; but gave no valid reason against it. He expressed his earnest desire for peace in very general terms, and on rising shook hands with the deputation and closed the interview.

DEATH OF WILLIAM BRODIE GURNEY, Esq.

(From the Patriot.)

It is again our melancholy office to announce the loss to the Christian Church of one of its brightest ornaments and most useful members. Yesterday morning, at half-past six o'clock, the venerable William Brodie Gurney departed this life, at his residence, Denmark-hill, Surrey, in the seventy-eighth year of his age. For some years past, his infirmities had been visibly increasing, and his health in a precarious state. His death, however, was somewhat unexpected, and does not appear to have proceeded from the disorder which had principally excited the apprehensions of his friends. Till within the last few days, no unusual or alarming symptoms had manifested themselves. Indeed, his health was such as to encourage the hope of his laying, on the first Thursday in May, the foundation-stone of the Jubilee Building of the Sunday-school Union; of which, in 1803, he was the founder, and held the office of its President to the time of his death.

William Brodie Gurney was, we believe, born in London, probably in Essex-street, Strand, where, before removing to Walworth, his father resided.

"Nearly seventy years ago," he stated in an address in 1853. "I came as a child in my father's family to live at Walworth; and, after I had put away childish things, I became a Sunday-school teacher in Walworth. A Sunday-school had been opened for boys three years previously, supported by my good father and others, consisting of about thirty boys, taught by a poor man who was paid for teaching them to read and for taking them to chapel, where he kept them in order, or attempted to do so, by now and then laying his cane across their backs. In 1796, four of us, then young men, thinking that the school was not doing much good, took it out of the hands of the master, becoming ourselves the teachers; and, in a few weeks, the number of scholars was increased to 120, and afterwards to a still greater number."

Although, therefore, it cannot be claimed for Mr.

Gurney that he was the founder of Sunday-schools, the first school having been formed by Mr. Raikes in 1781, yet, it appears certain that he was one of those who first gave to Sunday-school instruction the impetus which it received from being carried on, not by hired labour, but by the voluntary efforts of teachers who prosecuted it as a labour of love. The interest which he felt in this department of usefulness, not only never declined, but seemed even to increase with the lapse of years. In the councils of the Sunday-school Union, so long as his health would permit, he took an active and constant share, filling successively the offices of Secretary, Treasurer, and President, and contributing essentially to the promotion of a Sunday-school literature, of a character and excellence heretofore unknown, and inferior to no class of productions in adaptation to the end.

In his profession, Mr. Gurney followed in the footsteps of his father. While his elder brother, the late Mr. Baron Gurney, adopted the profession of the law, and attained eminence both as a barrister and a judge, he devoted himself to the cultivation of the stenographic art, in which he so far excelled all others, that, at an early age, he was appointed shorthand-writer to the House of Lords, and, at the head of a select body of assistants, discharged the duties of that distinguished office in person so long as health and strength permitted. The emoluments were sometimes exceedingly large, and may serve to account for the munificent liberality with which he contributed to the numerous religious and benevolent institutions which enjoyed his sympathy and support.

To the religious public he was best known, perhaps, as treasurer of the Baptist Missionary Society. His father was a deacon of the Baptist Church in Maze Pond, then under the pastoral care of the excellent Mr. Dore. It is not wonderful, therefore, that a son, who had taken so much interest in the religious instruction of his poor neighbours, should, on the formation of the Baptist Missionary Society, have thrown his energies into this branch of religious usefulness also, with so much energy as to attract the attention of its original promoters. Mr. W. B. Gurney eventually became the treasurer of the society; the duties of which office, in later years, he has shared with Mr. (now Sir) Samuel Morton Peto. In his hands it was no mere matter of finance. Not more for the largeness and frequency of his pecuniary contributions, than for the zeal with which he entered into all the society's plans and proceedings, and the active part which he took in exciting a missionary feeling, especially among the young, both in Sunday-schools and in private families—was it manifest that his whole heart and soul were engaged in the great work of diffusing the Gospel.

Miscellaneous News.

Complaints come from the North of Scotland that the long winter, the frequent snow-storms, and the wetness of the ground, have seriously retarded farming operations; much land has not been ploughed yet, and "not an ounce of seed is yet in the ground."

A serious gas explosion took place in the police-station at Portsmouth Dockyard, on Saturday night. The sound of the explosion resembled the discharge of a piece of ordnance as large as a 32-pounder. The building was immediately shattered to a wreck, and the roof, in its descent, buried all beneath at the time, about ten persons, all of whom were more or less injured, and were borne to Haslar Hospital as soon as extricated. One has since died.

A shock of earthquake was felt in Caithness and neighbourhood on Wednesday last. The inhabitants of Sarslet and neighbourhood along the coast to the south were alarmed by a sudden heaving of the earth and a loud rumbling noise like the sound of distant artillery. It was observed that the air was close and sultry for the season, and for about a quarter of an hour the shakings of the ground were so marked as to communicate to the furniture in some of the houses, and set the crockeryware in the presses a rattling.

We ask particular attention to the following figures equally striking and gratifying, and susceptible of no explanation that we can offer except by a reference to the operation of the Public-houses Act. The number of prisoners in the Edinburgh Prison was in

1853, March 21	650
1854, March 21	495
1855, March 21	318

So that within these two years the falling-off has been more than a half. The decrease in the number of male prisoners, during the two years, has been 146, and in the number of female prisoners 178.—*Scottish Press.*

An interesting meeting was held, on Friday, at Willis's Rooms, to promote the erection of a testimonial to the memory of Lord Dudley Stuart. Lord Shaftesbury was the chairman; among the speakers—the Marquis of Breadalbane, Mr. Vernon Smith, the Rev. Mr. Boone, Mr. Phinn, M.P., Mr. Monckton Milnes, M.P., the Earl of Zetland, Sir John Shelley, and Mr. Thomson Hankey. Besides these, the audience included Prince Lucien Bonaparte, Lord R. Grosvenor, Lord Hatherton, M. Louis Kossuth, Sir Robert Peel, Sir B. Hall, Mr. Cowan, M.P., &c., &c.

The Hull Packet relates a very singular occurrence. About fifty years ago a gentleman in Hull lost a ring containing some hair, his own name and some other inscription being engraved inside. It was supposed that he had lost it in crossing the ferry from the town to the garrison, by pulling it off along with his glove when preparing to pay the ferryman. That gentleman has now been long deceased, but his son, who still resides here, was last week waited upon by a boatman, who presented to him this identical ring, which, he

stated, had just been jerked up from the bottom of the river by a rope at which he was pulling. The ring was in excellent preservation, and was most welcome received by the family of its former owner.

The Earl of Aberdeen, it is understood, will shortly leave England, for Egypt, in order to see his son, Lord Haddo, who contemplates prolonging his stay in the East for some time to come. Lord Haddo is at present in the neighbourhood of Cairo.

A meeting of the news-vender trade was held on Thursday night at St. Martin's Hall, Long Acre, to consider the proposed alteration in the stamp duty on newspapers. The attendance on the occasion was very small, and fell far short of a due representation of the trade. More than an hour elapsed after the time fixed for the commencement of the proceedings before the chair was taken. It was then occupied by Mr. Wild, who briefly stated his objections to the measure contemplated by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. He objected to the inconvenience it would give to the news-vendor, and to the permission to parties starting newspapers to do so without security. A resolution was passed condemnatory of the bill, after considerable opposition.

Henry Garrett, charged with robbing the Victoria Bank, Melbourne, South Australia, of 14,000*l.*, was on Thursday evening detected by policeman E 111, aided by two City detectives, and, without a struggle on his part, though armed to the teeth, lodged in the St. Giles's division, Clark's-buildings. He was only a few days arrived from the Antipodes, and, it is supposed, by the steam-ship *Argo*. Besides weapons for his defence, which it is said the City policemen on his track much dreaded, they found on his person two bank cheques, one for upwards of 2,000*l.*, and another for over 300*l.*, together with 20*l.* in gold. On being questioned as to his residence he denied having any, but the police, who so well watched him, knew otherwise, and found out his lodgings, and in them materials to enable them to have him prosecuted for more than one felony with which he appears to have been suspected previous to leaving the colony. Garrett was a ticket-of-leave man, and it appears made his first essay, after obtaining his liberty, by the determined robbery with which he is now charged. He was on Friday remanded for a week by the Marlborough-street magistrate.

The colliers in and around Bilston were in a state of open riot on Friday, and the police were compelled to charge sword in hand to disperse the mobs. Six rioters were arrested, and five have been committed for trial. The riot arose out of a reduction of wages. Colonel Slade arrived at Bilston at about half-past twelve on Friday night, with 100 of the Essex Rifles, whose arrival was a source of satisfaction to the townspeople. Throughout the night the town was quiet. On Saturday afternoon the disaffected colliers again assembled in the neighbourhood of Bilston, and, after committing excesses at several pits, proceeded in a body to Walsall, forcing other persons to join their ranks as they proceeded. Throughout the whole district there are collieries, where they expressed their determination to prevent work. At Wolverhampton the mob demanded provisions from shopkeepers, helping themselves when they were refused. Colonel Hogg sallied out from the police-barracks, mounted, with a company of his men, armed with sabres, when two of the mob were arrested. The enrolled pensioners were assembled at Walsall. Ten of the principal rioters were in custody, one, the ring-leader of the party, John Jones. At Wednesbury, some of the colliers have resumed work at the reduced wages. In the densely-populated district between Oldbury and Dudley, the workmen appear to be peaceably disposed.

A disaster attended with a loss of life occurred at Bristol on Tuesday morning. A barge worked by a steam screw-propeller, supposed to have been going at a great rate, the speed caused by the action of the screw having been much accelerated by a rapid tide, came into contact with the iron framework of Hills-bridge, an arch spanning the new cut of the Avon; and the whole structure gave way, carrying with it all that happened to be on it—vehicles and foot-passengers. Some men swam to the shore; but it was reported that others, and women and children, were missing; two horses were drowned. The bridge was of cast iron, 160 feet span, the ends resting on stone piers. The master of the barge was arrested. There are rumours that the bridge was considered unsafe. A gentleman who was on it has sent an account of the disaster to the *Times*: he saw the approaching collision, but did not suppose that the structure would give way; he fell into the water, swam toward the shore, and was pulled out of the way of the barge by a woman, at the risk of her life. A most providential escape was experienced by a young lady who, just before the accident, after standing a few moments to watch the progress of the barge, proceeded to the foot of the bridge, which she intended to cross. She just then saw an acquaintance, with whom she stopped to speak, and the next moment the bridge fell in. A Mr. Webley, who states that he was the last person on the bridge before it fell, says there were not more than eight or nine persons crossing at the time, and as three, if not four, are known to have been saved, the loss of life may not be, perhaps, so great as was feared. The only persons as yet ascertained to have perished, whose names are known, are: William Bevan, in the employ of Messrs. King and Son, of Temple-backs, who leaves a wife and three children; and a Mr. Cookley, a small shopkeeper, living in Avon-square.

Sam Slick says of the bag-pipe:—"Of all the awful instruments that ever was heard, that is the worst. Figs in a bag ain't the smallest part of a circumstance to it; for the way it squeaks is a caution to cats."

Literature.

Fabiola; or, The Church of the Catacombs. London: Burns and Lambert.

THIS volume belongs to, and we believe is the first of, a series entitled the *Popular Catholic Library*. The author states that, when consulted as to the plan of that series, he suggested the composition of a few tales illustrative of the past condition of the Church. He hinted that one should be called "The Church of the Catacombs;" a second, "The Church of the Basilicas"—each comprising three hundred years; a third would be on "The Church of the Cloister;" and a fourth might be called "The Church of the Schools." The author himself, after being strongly urged to it, undertook the first tale; and it is here before us. It is said—we believe correctly—that the author is no less eminent a personage than Cardinal Wiseman; and accordingly, as Cardinal Wiseman's work, we regard and report concerning this volume.

The author says it has been "not the occupation, but the recreation, of leisure hours;" "written at all sorts of times and in all sorts of places," and in "every variety of situation and circumstances, sometimes trying ones." As a piece of fiction, it is very faulty, having nothing like unity, and being interrupted and broken by "talk with the reader." Yet it contains some vivid pictures of the life, manners, and practices of the Roman Christians of the fourth century, and is written with great knowledge and much talent. More strictly historical works, perhaps, would hardly give a completer view of the Christian life of the times. The type of character specially illustrated, is that which the Breviary presents in the office of St. Agnes; but it is developed through a very roundabout and often uninteresting story, and accompanied by descriptions full of wearisome sameness. Of course the story favours the pretensions and principles of the Church of Rome, but we cannot charge it with perversion of facts to its own purposes. The only deliberate violation of the general truth of history is, as the author warns his readers, in the sacrifice of chronology, in order that persons and events of different countries and epochs, within the first few centuries, may be brought together in the succession of pictures it was desired to complete.

It strikes us as quite suggestive, that a Roman Catholic series of tales of the Church should begin no earlier than does this. It would not be so easy to favour the claims of that Church by the story of the life, belief, and worship of the really primitive Christians; and certainly, even the story of the Catacombs, at the date of this sketch, might yield more interest and a different order of instruction than "Fabiola" is able to impart.

Russia and Her Czar. By E. J. BRABAZON, Author of "Outlines of the History of Ireland," &c. London: Robert Thosbald.

A good popular History of Russia was greatly wanted; and we are right glad to be able to say, that the volume we now introduce to our readers supplies that want ably and happily. The difficulties in the way of writing such a history seem to us to have consisted, not merely in the comparative inaccessibility of authorities and paucity of materials, but also, in the nature of many of the materials which were really accessible: for it is scarcely possible to write of some periods in Russian history without so staining the pages occupied with them, that women and young people could not be permitted to behold them. Several good works have, for this reason, been unsuited to general circulation. Miss Brabazon has exercised great discrimination and good judgment in the selection and use of her facts; and has succeeded in preserving the truth of history without making disclosures and references that pollute the imagination or stimulate prurient curiosity. There is no other history that we can so well commend to universal reading.

But these are not its only merits. The author knows familiarly, and has consulted carefully and faithfully, the best authorities and sources of information. Everything material to the story of Russia, for the general reader, will be found condensed in a clear and interesting narrative on her pages. An introductory chapter makes the reader acquainted with the scene and surroundings of the drama he is to witness; and, throughout, there is recognition of the social elements and statistical conditions of the successive eras, as well as the delineation of the progress of political events and the biography of prominent persons. The past of Russia is well painted to the reader's mind; and then the present is vividly outlined to him: so that no one could read the book without becoming the possessor of the most important facts and observations that modern writers have been gradually drawing together, and which probably have never been so fully collected before in a popular history. The interest and intelligibility of present events will be considerably increased to those hitherto but little read in Russian history, by the perusal of this most pleasant and excellent volume.

The Bible Hand-book. By JOSEPH ANGUS, D.D. London: Religious Tract Society.

THIS volume has now been published several months; and, in that time, we happen to have made ourselves very familiar with its contents in detail. We have most cordially to commend it, both for its excellence of conception and plan, and for the general satisfactoriness of its execution. We do not find the author free from minor defects and inaccuracies; and we differ considerably from many of his criticisms and emendations of inaccurate and

inadequate translations in the English Bible. We, also, think the chapter on "Interpretation" capable of much improvement; especially in the clearness of its rules and the representative character of its illustrations. But, while familiarity with the book has led to the observation of imperfections, it has also greatly deepened our sense of its worth, and of the importance of the service rendered by the author to the cause of popular biblical knowledge. No other work of the kind is so full and comprehensive, or so careful and scholarly. None other is so well based on late results of biblical learning, nor assists the reader to such a really intelligent and thorough study of the Scriptures. Where so much was to be done, and so much compression was necessary, we wonder that all has been done so well. The work is admirably adapted to the young student, whether it be on professional studies that he is entering, or only on that general study of the Word of God which is binding, much more than is usually felt, on every Christian believer. Perhaps, the author has erred in attempting too much for the more advanced student; for it is not in such compendiums that the much advanced can or should be content to study a subject so great and various. But we do not think that the interests of the commencing student are themselves sacrificed to the other aim: on the contrary, they are generally cared for sufficiently and satisfactorily. Whoever uses the book, must use it as a student, though he may not intend to pursue the subjects farther than this work enables him. There is no popular reading or elegant common-place about the Bible here. It is no mere outline, not even a full outline, of biblical science. It is a condensed body of the information accumulated by biblical science, under the heads of—The Genuineness, Authenticity, Authority, and Inspiration of Scripture,—the Principles and Rules of Interpretation,—the Systematic, Inferential, and Practical Study of the Bible,—Introductions severally to all the Books of the Old and New Testaments,—with a detailed view of the Historical, Literary, and Religious Connexion of the Two Testaments. Of the large amount, and endless variety, and frequent minuteness of detail, of this body of information, we know not how to give our readers an account. Let us simply say that intelligent readers who master this book will have such a knowledge of the evidences, literature, facts, and doctrines of the Bible, as is rarely possessed now-a-days by any but professed theologians and ministers. We wish we could believe that even the latter were generally the masters of as much biblical science as these pages contain. We cannot conceive any greater benefit to the young men of our churches and congregations than might be attained by a general adoption and intelligent use of Dr. Angus's Hand-book in ministerial Bible-classes. It is quite the best book of the kind, of its own class and intention; and altogether the best help the Religious Tract Society has contributed to the creation or extension of popular biblical learning. We think the author and the society alike entitled to hearty thanks and praise.

The Annotated Paragraph Bible. Part IV. The Prophetic Books. London: Tract Society.

THIS fourth part of the Tract Society's beautiful and valuable Paragraph Bible, in large octavo, completes the Old Testament. It contains the Prophetic Books complete, with general and special introductions, and notes similar in character and extent to those of previous parts. It has our emphatic commendation: and we look with interest for the New Testament portion, which will occupy two parts.

Studies from History. Vol. 1.—Richard I. and the Third Crusade.—Mohammed II. and the Fall of the Greek Empire. By Rev. W. H. RULE. London: John Mason.

UNDER the general title given above, Mr. Rule intends to issue a series of historical volumes, in which conspicuous persons will be selected as representative of epochs, and their biographies written so as to introduce the chief aspects of their times. By this plan it is thought that more interest and usefulness may be secured to studies of history; for it is of men, life, character, far more than of centuries and periods in themselves, that we desire to know all we can; and by them we can mark the bounds and times of history. The author, very rightly and forcibly, rejects compendiums as a means of conveying historical information; and has written in full detail the story of each of the representative men chosen as his first objects. The choice of these is thus explained:—

"Richard I. is a representative of the barbaric life of the twelfth century. The names of his father, Henry II., and of Becket, will never fail to be remembered by Englishmen; and through them we glance at a struggle of our ancestors with the Court of Rome, a conflict of patriotism and superstition, and the early germination of constitutional liberties. . . . And through the adventures of our warring and captive sovereign, we also gain some conception of what must be called Christian society in the same period. . . . We allow three centuries of inferior interest to pass away, without looking for another subject. Then we choose Mohammed II., because his resistless arms gave the shock to Europe that resulted in an entire social change, and made the way for a new era; with him the historians of the middle age finish, with him the historians of modern times begin."

Mr. Rule understands the responsibilities of a historian; he has used both research and pains at his task; and says he narrates nothing "that is disputable," and takes nothing "at second-hand." Yet, that he is either a

critical writer, or one with real genius for the reproduction of a great past, is more than we can say, or than his work has made us feel. He has certainly sought the original and best authorities, and has used them diligently and with good judgment. But that all the "disputable" parts of the stories he tells are banished, would scarcely be affirmed by a well-read historical student. We do, however, feel greatly indebted to Mr. Rule for a volume of much interest and instructiveness. It is a great merit that Christian convictions and feelings baptize the book; as Arnold desired that secular works should be, without their becoming professedly religious. It is written in an even, pleasant, lucid style, which is admirably suited to the general reader. It is especially to be commended, too, as furnishing the first separate biography of Mohammed II. that has been written in English.

Cleanings.

By the street of "By-and-bye" one arrives at the house of "Never."

The grandfather of the Earl of Carlisle was Viceroy of Ireland in 1780.

The number of acres employed in growing hops in England, last year, was 53,823.

Deliberate long upon what you can do but once. A maxim worth remembering.

Mr. E. M. Ward has been elected a Royal Academician, in the place of the late Mr. J. J. Chalon.

The admissions to the Crystal Palace for five days ending 23rd March, including season-ticket-holders, was 5,231. The Palace was closed on Wednesday.

Dr. Charles Mackay, well known in the literary world, has just set off for the Crimea, in connexion, it is supposed, with the *Illustrated London News*.

The bread of life is love; the salt of life, faith.—*Mrs. Jameson's Common-place Book.*

"Moredun," the much-talked-of novel, reported to be by Sir Walter Scott, is about to be published by Messrs. Low; the authenticity of the authorship is not, however, vouched for by them.

The authorities of Liverpool have purchased the Birkenhead Docks from Baron Goldsmid and Sir Joseph Bailey for 1,300,000*l.*, payable in six years, with interest at the rate of four per cent.

It is proposed to divide Lancashire into three ridings, the county palatine being two mashes for one body of justices. The county magistrates held recently a meeting at Liverpool on the subject, and a further one was appointed.

The friends of progress and enlightenment amongst the working-classes will be glad to learn that Professor Lee, of Edinburgh, has prevailed upon the managers of Heriot's Hospital to include in the course of education in that institution the science of human physiology.

A man wrote to his friend in Greece, begging him to purchase books. From negligence or avarice, he neglected to execute the commission; but fearing that his correspondent might be offended, he exclaimed when next they met, "My dear friend, I never got the letter that you wrote to me about the books."

The Earl of Carlisle lately effected a joke, when, as President of the dinner of the Society for Diseases of the Chest, he gave as a toast "the ladies," hoping "that though he could not wish they might abstain from inflicting wounds of the heart upon others, he hoped they would never experience disease of the chest themselves."

The reward of one thousand pounds advertised some short time since by the proprietors of the *Times* for a good and cheap substitute for paper will, it is said, shortly be claimed. The inventors of "Watts' Patent Pulp," manufactured from wood-shavings, bran, &c., have brought the material to perfection, and qualified judges entertain no doubt of the success of the undertaking.

A French paper thus traces the sensations of a reader of advertisements: The first advertisement—he don't see it. The second insertion—he sees it but don't read it. The third insertion—he reads it. The fourth insertion—he looks at the price. The fifth insertion—he speaks of it to his wife. The sixth insertion—she is willing to buy. The seventh—he purchases.

A newspaper in Chinese and English was started at St. Francisco on the 1st January last. It is called the *Oriental, or Tung-Ngai-Sun-Luk*. It is published under the auspices of an English missionary society, for the purpose of converting the Chinese in California to Christianity. Its Chinese editor is one Lee-Kan, who was converted to Christianity at Hong-Kong.

Mr. Exton, of Eastwell, the "Silver Squire," who was in the habit, at home and in Melton, of distributing silver to beggars, died the other day at an advanced age. As he always gave half-a-crown to a woman and child, women who had no children used to borrow of their neighbours. His indiscriminate charity kept the neighbourhood full of beggars of the worst description.

A doctor, the other day, ordered some very powerful medicine for a sick boy, and the father not liking the appearance of it, forced it down the cat's throat. When the doctor called and inquired if the powder had cured the boy, the father replied, "No, we didn't give it to him." "Good heavens!" exclaimed the doctor, "is the child living?" "Yes," answered the father, "but the old cat isn't; we gave it to her." The doctor cut.—*Evansville Journal.*

Mr. Henry Reeve, who we stated in our last number was appointed editor of the *Edinburgh Review*, in place of Sir George Cornewall Lewis, is, it is said, the gentleman to whom the public are indebted for most of the articles on foreign policy in the *Times*. His

name has been more prominently before the public lately as the author of an edition of Whitelock's "Memorials of his Embassy to Sweden under the Protectorate of Cromwell."

After an accident the other day on one of the American railways, an Irishman was found among the rubbish of a broken car, knocked into insensibility. He was taken to a neighbouring house, where he soon after returned to consciousness. The first words he uttered were: "By the powers! an' wasn't it a Know Nothing I was for a few moments, gentlemen?" The ludicrous remark dissipated for the time being the gloom occasioned by the disaster.

The Circassian women, noted the world over for their beauty, adopt a mode of dress which denotes their position in society. If a fair vision should chance to attract the admiring glances of a gallant knight in search of a wife, he can always tell by the colour of her trousers whether the wearer be maid, wife, or widow—virgin white being worn by the young girls, red by her who has assumed the duties of a matron, and blue by the dame who mourns the death of her lord.

At the Royal Institution, on Tuesday, the instantaneous duration of an electric spark, and the means ingeniously contrived by Professor Wheatstone to measure it, were illustrated by the original apparatus employed by the professor; from which it was ascertained that the duration of the spark does not exceed the twenty-five-thousandth part of a second. A cannon-ball, if illumined in its flight by a flash of lightning, would, in consequence of the momentary duration of the light, appear to be stationary; and even the wings of an insect that move ten thousand times in a second would seem at rest.

A large and brilliant party was given in fashionable circles a few weeks since, not one hundred miles from our metropolis, and the festivities were kept up to so late an hour that the fair hostess became completely wearied out. Some fifteen minutes after the lady supposed the last of her guests had left, she walked into the supper-room, where the gas had been turned down, and gave vent to her wearied spirit, by ejaculating—"Thank God, they are all stuffed and gone." "Not quite all," squeaked out a voice, "I have returned to find an ear-ring which I supposed was dropped while at the supper-table!" The hostess's chagrin can be better imagined than described, when on turning round she discovered one of her most fashionable neighbours!—*Weekly Chronicle*.

BIRTHS.

March 17, at 9, Stanley-terrace, Southsea, the wife of Mr. ROBERT HENRY JACKSON, of a daughter.
March 18, at Albany-place, Stoke Newington, Mrs. EDWARD VIVIER, of a daughter.
March 18, at Stamford-hill, the wife of SAMUEL MORLEY, Esq., of a daughter.
March 22, the wife of the Rev. THOMAS YOUNG, of Blakeney, Gloucestershire, of a son.
March 24, at Lansdowne House, the Countess of SHELBURNE, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

March 13, at the British Embassy, at Dresden, BRAMMONT WILLIAM HOTHAM, Esq., youngest son of the late Vice-Admiral Hon. Sir HENRY HOTHAM, K.C.B., to CHARLOTTE AMELIA, the youngest daughter of Rear-Admiral RICH.
March 22, at Ponder's End Chapel, by the Rev. J. Lockyer, the father of the bride, Mr. E. HOWARD, of Old-street, to Miss E. LOCKYER, of Ponder's End.
March 26, at Victoria-street Chapel, Windsor, by the Rev. L. LILLYPOT, Mr. BOWSER, of Slough, to EMMA, third daughter of Mr. BENNETT, of Datchet.

DEATHS.

October 13, 1854, at Ralston, JUDITH, the wife of the Rev. GEORGE PLATT, after a protracted illness.
December 21, 1854, at Ballarat, from the effects of wounds received in a skirmish with insurgents at Eureka Diggins, Captain HENRY CHRISTOPHER WISE, 40th Regiment, eldest son of H. C. WISE, Esq., of Woodcote, Warwickshire, aged twenty-five.
December 28, 1854, MARTHA ANNE, wife of JOHN T. RICH, Esq., of Melbourne, Australia, after a short illness, caused by fright and exposure in making her escape from the conflagration of their house and premises.
January 29th, at Calcutta, Mrs. CHARLES PRINCEP, the lamented wife of the Advocate-General.
March 2nd, of fever, in Balaklava harbour, on board the Walker Castle transport, to which he had been removed from the engagement, Assistant-Surgeon WILLIAM HENWICK, 14th Regt., youngest son of the late Lieut.-Col. HENWICK, aged twenty-three.
March 8, at Aberdeen, Mrs. MARY MEARNS, at the advanced age of 110 years. This venerable lady was in the full possession of almost all her faculties, and continued so up to the day of her death, and was employed at her usual pastime (knitting) within a day or two of her decease. She was ninety years an uninterrupted member of the Methodist body, and had the privilege of hearing the late Mr. J. Wesley preach. She has two grandsons in the ministry, the Rev. John Mearns, of Perth, and the Rev. William Mearns, of Shaftesbury.
March 13, at Mount Kennedy, county Wicklow, Ireland, of scarlet fever, aged six years and a half, GEORGINA ISABELLA.
March 18, aged seven years and seven months, ANNE ADELAIDE; and March 19, aged eleven months, LUCY PHILLIPPA—the beloved children of ROBERT and ISABELLA GUN CUNNINGHAM.
March 16, at Kington, aged sixty-seven, Mr. JOHN WARD. He was a liberal supporter of the cause of the Redeemer in his own neighbourhood and in foreign lands, and was extensively known as the friend of the needy.
March 16, at No. 44, Nelson-square, Blackfriars-road, London, aged about ninety, JONATHAN LUTTON, formerly of Leeds, a member of the Society of Friends.
March 16, JANE, daughter of the late Rev. THOMAS JACKSON, of Stockwell.
March 19, at Portishead, Somerset, Miss FREEDENCE DAVIS WALKER, eldest daughter of Mr. PETER WALKER, aged thirty-seven years, after a lingering illness.
March 19, at Ladbroke-square, Kensington-park, SOPHIA, wife of JAMES BURWER, Esq., K.H., late Physician-General of the Army at Bombay, second daughter of the late Major-General Sir GEORGE HOLMES, K.C.B.
March 19, of pneumonia, in the thirteenth year of his age, BERNARD GLANVILLE LYNDON, only surviving son of RICHARD HENRY HOLLS, Esq., Solicitor, Banbury, Oxfordshire.
March 19, after a few weeks' illness, WILLIAM HULL, of Uxbridge, aged fifty-one.
March 20, of disease of the heart, at Hawes, Yorkshire, WILLIAM BOWMAN, aged thirty-two.
March 20, MARIA, wife of GEORGE GRAHAM, Esq., Registrar-General of Births, Deaths, and Marriages.
March 20, after a few days' illness, much respected, Mr. GEO. ELLIS, of Christchurch, second son of Mr. DAVID ELLIS, of Christchurch, Essex, aged thirty-six years.
March 21, EMMA, the second surviving daughter of the late RALPH BERNAL, Esq., of 93, Eaton-square.
March 21, at his residence, 25, Duncan-terrace, Islington, GEORGE DAVIES, F.R.S., late Actuary to the Guardian Assurance Company and Reversionary Interest Society, aged sixty-six.
March 23, after a short illness, at 4, Grove-hill, Camberwell,

PERRY EDGAR, the beloved child of H. R. ENNISTON, Esq., aged two years and two months.

March 25, at 36, Soho-square, MARIA ELIZABETH, the beloved wife of Mr. GEORGE ROUTLEDGE, of Farringdon-street, aged forty.

March 25, at Denmark-hill, Surrey, WILLIAM BRODIE GURNEY, Esq., in his seventy-eighth year.

Money Market and Commercial Intelligence.

CITY, Tuesday Evening.

The English Funds have been mainly influenced by the reports relative to the Vienna Conference, the general impression being favourable to a pacific solution. Yesterday there was a decline of $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent., and a subsequent partial rally. To-day Consols opened at an improvement of nearly $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. on the closing price of last evening. The reported opening of the campaign by the Russian troops in the Crimea, and their repulse with great loss by the allied forces, has been the principal cause of the advance. The improvement was now, however, maintained. Consols for Money are now quoted at 92 $\frac{1}{2}$ 93, and for the 11th April they are at 93 93 $\frac{1}{2}$. India Bonds, 10s. to 13s. Exchequer Bills remain at 6s. to 9s. premium. Money on Government Securities is obtainable at about 3 per Cent.

Foreign Securities remain quiet, the only transactions have been—Danish 3 per Cents, at 82. Spanish 3 per Cents. Deferred firm at 18 $\frac{1}{2}$. Ditto Committee Certificates, 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ per Cent. Turkish Bonds rather flat at 80 $\frac{1}{2}$ for Account. Dutch 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ per Cents, 62 $\frac{1}{2}$. Ditto 4 per Cent. Certificates, 94 $\frac{1}{2}$.

The Share Market has been depressed, and in several of the leading Stocks prices have given way. Aberdeens are 5s. weaker. Bristol and Exeters, 10s. lower. Eastern Counties remain firm at 11 $\frac{1}{2}$. Great Northern B Stock, 124. Great Westerns, 2s. 6d. firmer. Lancashire and Yorkshire, $\frac{1}{4}$ better. London and Brightons show a fall of 1 $\frac{1}{2}$. London and North Westerns have declined 7s. 6d. London and South Westerns continue at 83 $\frac{1}{2}$. Midlands, 69 $\frac{1}{2}$. Berwicks have fallen 10s. South Easterns are 5s. flatter. No change in French Shares.

Mining Shares continue steady, with little alteration. Australian 1 $\frac{1}{2}$. Cobro Copper have advanced 1 $\frac{1}{2}$. United Mexican, $\frac{1}{4}$ firmer. In Banks no alteration. is shown. Chartered of Asia, 4 $\frac{1}{2}$. New South Wales remain at 33 $\frac{1}{2}$. Union of London, 26 $\frac{1}{2}$. Australian Agriculturals are 15s. lower. Canada Government Bonds are at 108 $\frac{1}{2}$. Crystal Palace Shares, 3 $\frac{1}{2}$. General Screw Steam, 15 $\frac{1}{2}$. Mexican and South Americans, $\frac{1}{4}$ higher.

The specie arrivals of the week amounted to 700,000*l.*, about three-fourths in gold. The shipments have not much exceeded 100,000*l.*

The accounts of the state of trade in the manufacturing towns during the past week show, for the most part, a slight improvement. The Manchester markets opened with a better appearance, and although there was less activity, towards the close prices were fairly upheld. At Birmingham there is a partial revival of confidence, but the effect of the recent failures has been severe, and while the demand for railroad iron at home is not promising, there is as yet no increase in the orders from the United States. As regards the general trades of the place, prospects in several instances appear to have brightened, and for agricultural implements especially the demand is good. Business has been interrupted in the surrounding districts by the resistance of the colliers to a reduction of wages being made the pretext by idlers and boys for riots, which were, however, speedily put down. In the carpet trade at Kidderminster great distress continues to prevail. At Nottingham there has been no alteration, but at the present rates for yarn and labour, and with the advantage of constant improvements in machinery, reliance is placed on the cheapness of manufacture being such as to give our producers the command of every market. "The hose," it is said, "which previous to 1850 could not be sold for less than 6s. 6d. per dozen, are now extensively selling at 3s. per dozen, and shirts are to be had at 5s. 9d. per dozen." In the Irish linen trade the tendency to recovery has been maintained.

In the port of London during the week the recent pressure of business has nearly subsided, and as the north-easterly winds still prevail, the arrivals are not numerous. The total number of vessels reported inward was 104, being eighteen less than in the previous week. The departures are still very considerable, the total number cleared outward having been 131, which shows an increase of eight over the previous week.

The departures from the port of London for the Australian colonies during the week have comprised only two vessels—one to Sydney of 595, and one to Launceston of 437 tons. The rates of freight continue to exhibit heaviness.

PROGRESS OF THE STOCKS DURING THE WEEK.

	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.
3 per Ct. Consols	92 $\frac{1}{2}$	92 $\frac{1}{2}$	92 $\frac{1}{2}$	92 $\frac{1}{2}$	92 $\frac{1}{2}$	93
Consols for Account	93 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	93 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	93 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	93 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	93 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	93 2 $\frac{1}{2}$
3 per Cent. Red.	Shut	Shut	Shut	Shut	Shut	Shut
New 3 per Cent.	Shut	Shut	Shut	Shut	Shut	Shut
Annunities	Shut	Shut	Shut	Shut	Shut	Shut
India Stock	Shut	Shut	Shut	Shut	Shut	Shut
Bank Stock	Shut	Shut	Shut	Shut	Shut	Shut
Exchequer-bills	6 pm	6 pm	6 pm	6 pm	9 pm	9 pm
India Bonds	10 pm	13 pm	13 pm	13 pm	13 pm	13 pm
Long Annunities	Shut	Shut	Shut	Shut	Shut	Shut

The Gazette.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

(From Friday's Gazette.)

An Account, pursuant to the act 7th and 8th Victoria, c. 32, for the week ending on Saturday, the 17th day of March, 1855.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes issued.....	£27,479,975	Government Debt...£11,015,100
		Other Securities..... 2,984,900
		Gold Coin & Bullion 13,479,975
		Silver Bullion.....
	£27,479,975	£27,479,975

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' Capital.....	£14,553,000	Government Securities (including Dead Weight Annuity).....£11,983,285
Reserve.....	3,644,317	Other Securities..... 14,521,596
Public Deposits.....	5,077,843	Notes..... 8,495,965
Other Deposits.....	11,135,862	Gold and Silver Coin 731,268
Seven Day and other Bills.....	891,692	
	£35,332,714	£35,332,714

March 22, 1855.

M. MARSHALL, Chief Cashier.

Tuesday, March 20, 1855.

BANKRUPTS.

CLARKSON, J., Strand, grocer, March 30, May 30; solicitor, Mr. Greville, Lombard-street.
BELL, A. W., Cole's-terrace, Barnsbury-road, wine merchant, March 30, April 26; solicitor, Mr. Stopher, Cheap-side.
FOX, C., Carahallon, seed crusher, March 30, May 4; solicitor, Mr. Weekes, Hungerford-street, Strand.
OAKLEY, E., Poole, corn merchant, March 31, April 28; solicitors, Messrs. Lovell and Co., Gray's-inn; and Mr. Rawlings, Wimborne Minster, Dorset.
BAKER, H., Camomile-street, London-wall, sugar boiler, April 3, April 27; solicitor, Mr. Vallance, Tutenhouse-yard.
HAMMOND, W. P., Scott's-yard, Bush-lane, shipowner, April 4, April 30; solicitor, Mr. Lee, George-street, Mansion House.
BEAVER, J., Bodminster, beer retailer, April 3, May 1; solicitor, Mr. Salmon, Bristol.
ENGLAND, W., and ENGLAND, F. H., Westbury, Wiltshire, woollen cloth manufacturers, April 3, May 1; solicitor, Mr. Harris, Bristol.
GREENSLADE, P., Stoke Canon, Devonshire, farmer, March 28, April 19; solicitors, Mr. Forwood, Tiverton; and Mr. Turner, Exeter.
BENNETT, A., Egloskayle, Cornwall, merchant, March 29, April 26; solicitor, Mr. Stopher, Exeter.
HOOD, J., Selby, Yorkshire, currier, April 5, April 27; solicitors, Messrs. Weddall and Parker, Selby; and Messrs. Bond and Barwick, Leeds.
ECCLESTON, W., Halifax, Yorkshire, stuff merchant, April 5, April 27; solicitors, Messrs. Holroyde, Son, and Cronhelm, Halifax; and Messrs. Bond and Barwick, Leeds.
BROWN, T., Bradford, Yorkshire, grocer, April 2, April 23; solicitors, Messrs. Cariss and Cudworth, Leeds.
CRITCHLEY, W., Manchester, publican, March 30, April 26; solicitor, Mr. Heath, Manchester.

DIVIDENDS.

April 13, J. and A. Atkinson, Huntingdon, drapers—April 11 G. Pryde, D. Jones, and J. Gibb, Liverpool, sailmakers—April 12, J. Lockier, J. McAulay, and T. Woodward, late of Bristol, timber merchants—April 24, E. Wadhurst, Manchester, Humber merchant.

PARTNERSHIPS DISSOLVED.

Ayre and Hewitt, Kingston-upon-Hull, commission agents—G. W. and J. Baydon, Calder-grove, near Wakefield, brewers—J. and C. Allen, Newport, Isle of Wight, cabinet makers—W. W. S. C. J., and F. H. Leaf, W. Smith, and M. Brankston, Old Change, merchants; as far as regards W. Smith—G. Unsworth and J. Parkins, Hanway-street, Oxford-street—J. E. Partington and G. B. Masfen, Manchester, surgeons—Hodgson, Gregory, and Co., Nottingham, cotton doublers—Tutbury Glass Company, Staffordshire; as far as regards T. E. Small—C. Hird and Son, Arabelle-row, Pimlico, bootmakers—E. Sheppard and R. Driver, Southampton, timber merchants—Hindle and Barker, Lowestoft, engineers—T. Lloyd and Co., Bristol, ironfounders—H. and W. Holt, Cambridge, leather sellers—W. Nixon and H. Porter, Nottingham, lace manufacturers—St. Lawrence Chemical Company, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, and Clapham and Sutton, Morpeth, soap manufacturers—Greenall and Thorp, Old Hutton, Westmoreland, worsted spinners—T. Godsell and Co., Southampton, tallow melters—T. Spiller and J. Fisher, Broker's-alley, Drury-lane, cloth workers—W. Haigh and J. Farrar, Halifax, worsted manufacturers—Chadwick and Stafford, Oldham, cotton spinners—G. and J. Rennie, Holland-street, Blackfriars, engineers—F. W. Stein and N. Hall, Newgate-street, importers of foreign goods—Dent, Allcroft, and Co., Wood-street Cheap-side, and elsewhere, glove manufacturers; as far as regards W. Lord.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

J. McLesch, Perth, manufacturer, March 26.
W. McNaught, Glasgow, brickmaker, March 30.
W. Allison, Paisley, Renfrewshire, tailor, March 30.

DECLARATIONS OF DIVIDENDS.

Baseke, G., St. George's-place, Knightsbridge, tobacconist, first div. of 6s. 8d., March 22, and three subsequent Thursdays, at Mr. Stansfeld's, Basinghall-street—Wade, W., Northampton, leatherseller, first div. of 3s. 10d., March 22, and three subsequent Thursdays, at Mr. Stansfeld's, Basinghall-street—Mathé, A., and Moore, S., Liverpool, merchants, second div. of 4s. 10d., March 26, or any subsequent Wednesday, at Mr. Turner's, Liverpool.

Friday, March 23, 1855.

BANKRUPTS.

HATCH, P. H., Wood-street, City, woollen warehouseman, March 30, April 27; solicitors, Messrs. Linklater, Sise-lane.
HUDSON, T., Chobham, Surrey, grocer, April 3, May 1; solicitors, Messrs. Linklater, Sise-lane.
HARRIS, G., Chichester, Sussex, grocer, April 3, May 1; solicitors, Messrs. Palmer and Co., Bedford-row; and Mr. Tichenor, Chichester.
BUNNY, H., Newbury, Berkshire, brickmaker, March 30, May 4; solicitors, Messrs. Lawrence and Co., Old Jewry-chambers; and Mr. Talbot, Newbury.
WALTON, I. W., Haymarket, hotel keeper, March 30, May 4; solicitor, Mr. Bailey, Mitre-court-chambers, Temple.
WILSON, J., Princes-street, Hanover-square, tailor, April 3 and 30; solicitors, Messrs. Campbell and Witly, Essex-street, Strand.
TEALE, F. G., and SMITH, F., Welbeck-street, Cavendish-square, and Blackfriars-road, builders, April 4, May 2; solicitors, Mr. Wetherfield, Basinghall-street.
LEAVESLEY, T., Coventry, silk dyer, April 7 and 28; solicitors, Mr. Minster, Coventry; and Mr. Reece, Birmingham.
MORRIS, C. J. W., Bilston, Staffordshire, draper, April 2 and 30; solicitors, Mr. Cowdell, Jun., Hinkley; and Mr. James, Birmingham.
OSBORN, W. H., Leicester, wine merchant, April 3, May 1; solicitors, Mr. Spooner, Leicester; and Messrs. Mottram and Knight, Birmingham.
WILDE, W., Liverpool, corn broker, April 5, May 3; solicitors, Messrs. Evans and Sons, Liverpool.
CRINAN, J., Burnley, Lancashire, grocer, April 4 and 25; solicitors, Mr. Haigh, Liverpool; and Messrs. Sale and Co., Manchester.
IRELAND, M. H., Newton Heath, Lancashire, dyer, April 4 and 24; solicitors, Messrs. Whitworth, Manchester.
MORGAN, J., Preston and Catshaw, Lancashire, spinner, April 3, May 1; solicitors, Messrs. Bickerstaff and Myres, Preston.

DIVIDENDS.

April 12, I. Unwin, Poland-street, Oxford-street, builder—April 16, J. Artigues, Mark-lane, City, general merchant—April 16, W. Vincent, J. Tanner, J. Barnes, and S. Hancock, Newbury, Berkshire, bankers—April 13, W. Phillips, Minorities, brush maker—April 14, F. N. Baker, Southampton, timber merchant—April 13, W. Cross, Melville-place, Hackney, printer—April 13, R. Thomas, Wardour-street, Oxford-street, tool maker—April 14, H. J.

Achlin, High Holborn, wholesale shoe manufacturer—April 19.
S. Carlton, Darlington, Durham, coach manufacturer—April 13.
J. Williams, Jun., Talyssan, Carnarvonshire, draper—April 26.
T. McKenna, Belfast, Ireland, and Manchester, draper—April 14.
J. F. Kershaw, Sheffield, Yorkshire, builder—April 14.
H. Wales, Attercliffe, Yorkshire, innkeeper.

PARTNERSHIPS DISSOLVED.

G. Greenhill and F. H. F. Gabriel, Bury-street, St. James's, oil merchants—E. Briggs and J. Firth, Ovendon, Yorkshire, worsted spinners—H. Pritchard and R. Berry, Percy-street, every stable keepers—Mary Carr and C. Carr, Kingston-upon-Hull, Yorkshire, basket makers—J. Shaw and J. Webb, Longton, Staffordshire, iron merchants—S. Clift and J. Chadwick, Jun., Bradford and Manchester, manufacturers of sewage guano—T. Hebard and H. Bristol, Dunster-court, Mincing-lane, general merchants—Elizabeth Senior and J. Parker, Jun., Batley, Yorkshire, rag dealers—E. Holden and J. Wilkinson, Birmingham, manufacturers of gas fittings—W. Jolliffe and J. M. Swayne, Southampton, drapers—A. Steel and T. Steel, High-street, Southwark, silk mercers—G. Rolis, R. E. Rolis, and G. Simmonds, St. Mary-axe, City—Old Kent-road, and Marlborough-road, waterproof clothing manufacturers—J. Meiklejohn, R. Ragg, and W. Winn, Winkfield, Berkshire, brick makers.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

Cruickshanks, R., Auchinairn, Lanarkshire, grocer, April 6.

DECLARATIONS OF DIVIDENDS.

Foden, J., Liverpool, grocer, first div. of 6s., April 4, and any subsequent Wednesday, at Mr. Morgan's, Liverpool—Mann, W. H., Maiden-lane, Cheap-side, merchant, second and final div. of 3s. 4d., March 28, and three subsequent Wednesdays, at Mr. Lee's, Aldermanbury.

Tuesday, March 27, 1855.

BANKRUPT.

VINER, C., VINER, H., VINER, G., and VINER, J. J., Brighton and Lewes, plumbers, April 5, May 10; solicitors, Messrs. Linklater, Sise-lane, City.

CHURCHWARD, J., Lothian-terrace, Brixton, builder, April 5, May 8; solicitors, Messrs. Ashurst and Morris, Old Jewry.

TIDD, G., Coddicote, Hertfordshire, corn dealer, April 5, May 8; solicitors, Messrs. Croxley and Armstrong, Lombard-street; and Mr. Strapton, St. Albans.

BOYD, M., New Bank-buildings, City, sharebroker, April 14, May 11; solicitor, Mr. Harris, Moorgate-street.

LEED, J., Edward-terrace, Islington, and Stephenson-terrace, Caledonian-road, oilman, April 13, May 4; solicitor, Mr. Carpenter, Elm-court, Temple.

WILKINS, W., Aylesbury-street, Clerkenwell, licensed victualler, April 4, May 19; solicitor, Mr. Pyke, Lincoln's-Inn-fields.

BYLES, H. N., Gosport, Hampshire, brewer, April 4, May 8; solicitors, Messrs. Taylor and Collinson, Great James-street, and Mr. Wilson, Salisbury.

EDWARDS, P., Lower-street, Islington, ironmonger, April 4, May 5; solicitors, Messrs. Lawrence and Co., Old Jewry-chambers, City.

CORNISH, W., Great Thurlow, Suffolk, grocer, April 4, May 8; solicitors, Messrs. Sole and Co., Aldermanbury.

BERNARD, G., Portsmouth-street, Lincoln's-Inn-fields, and Wych-street, Strand, carver, April 4, May 8; solicitor, Mr. Levy, Arndel-street.

HOFFMANN, G., Park-terrace, Clapham, brewer, April 4, May 2; solicitors, Messrs. De Jersey and Son, St. Ann's-lane, City.

BARBOUR, R., Deptford, tar distiller, April 17, May 8; solicitor, Mr. Nicholl, Essex-street, Strand.

JONES, J., Birmingham, tailor, April 7 and 27; solicitor, Mr. Baker, Birmingham.

COW, M. G., Great Bridge, Staffordshire, pawnbroker, April 11 and 30; solicitor, Mr. Payne, Birmingham.

GRISON, W., Alford, Lincolnshire, innkeeper, April 18, May 9; solicitor, Mr. Brackenbury, Alford.

LAW, T. H., Southport, Lancashire, sharebroker, April 11, May 11; solicitors, Messrs. Lees and Co., Liverpool.

NUTTALL, J. H., Liverpool, merchant, April 19, May 11; solicitors, Messrs. Lowndes and Co., Liverpool.

HUGHES, J., Tenth-street, Lancashire, joiner, April 12 and 30; solicitor, Mr. Owen, Liverpool.

DIVIDENDS.

April 30, J. Evans, Toy Hotel, Hampton-court, licensed victualler—April 30, J. A. Smith, Queen-street, Hammersmith, and Newport-street, Lambeth, lighterman—April 24, J. Midgley, Nottingham, soda water manufacturer—April 19, J. B. Mercer, Bath, carpenter—April 20, G. Pearson, Birkenhead, Cheshire, grocer.

PARTNERSHIPS DISSOLVED.

W. Lilly and W. Carter, Barnstable, Devonshire, drapers—R. Allan, R. Henderson, and G. Child, Middle Wharf, Adelphi—G. Consens and J. Whiteside, Davies-street, Berkeley-square, watchmakers—J. Hutton and J. Langley, Sheffield, Yorkshire, engineers—R. Taylor and F. Ennis, Marylebone-street, St. James's, Westminster, smiths—E. L. Powell and C. Lloyd, Abercromby, Monmouthshire, solicitors in Chancery—H. Nelson and T. Watson, West Bedford, Nottinghamshire, paper makers—J. Homan and J. Besmeres, Jun., Milk-street, City, wholesale clothiers—J. Hill and G. Swanwick, Nottingham, lace manufacturers—J. Taylor and F. W. Palmer, Claremont-place, Old Kent-road, general medical practitioners—A. Barbour and A. Wilson, Leeds—T. Clements and E. Deacon, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, brewers—E. Read and J. Tyler, Wimpole-street, Suffolk, grocers—D. Lees and R. B. Fletcher, Greenacres Moor, Oldham, cotton spinners—A. Reed and C. Marsh, Bishopgate-street, City, upholsterers—W. Stubbs, G. B. Carruthers, and J. Kidd, Caton, Lancashire, silk spinners; as far as regards J. Kidd—S. S. Benson, and J. W. Benson, Cornhill and Ludgate-hill, goldsmiths—J. Grossmith, J. Thompson, and C. T. Stafford, Newgate-street, City, importers of essential oils; as far as regards C. T. Stafford—J. Kemp, R. Finnie, A. Finnie, and J. Finnie, Manchester and Rio Janiro, merchants; as far as regards J. Kemp—J. Sutcliffe and R. Brook, Finch, near Leeds, grocers—G. Waugh and H. S. Mitchell, Great James-street, Bedford-row, attorneys—T. Douglas and I. Andrews, South Audley-street, Grosvenor-square, hair dressers—J. Lavin and A. Fennell, St. Mary-axe, Leadenhall-street, daylight reflector manufacturers—W. Crowe and D. H. Feltham, Moreton-street, Piccadilly, drapers—G. Boyton and R. Boyton, King's-square, St. Luke's, silver-smiths—J. Scott, R. Lister, and J. England, Womersley, Yorkshire, lime burners—J. Bowes and R. Forster, Liverpool, wholesale druggists—G. D. Sewell, W. Evans, G. W. Hubbard, and W. Bacon, Old Compton-street and Frith-street, Westminster, warehousemen; as far as regards W. Evans—J. Hamer and M. Glover, Wakefield, Yorkshire, linen-draper—W. Vertue and Co., Edinburgh, merchants—W. Phillips and W. Phillips, Jun., Birmingham, galvanised iron merchants.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

Bruce, J., Paisley, coal merchant, April 6.
Bannerman, W., and Morris, A. H. R., Glasgow, merchants, April 5.

Addison, C., and Stables, J., Keith, carriers, April 10.
Strathern, J., Glasgow, commission merchant, April 6.

Dick, J., Tradeston, Glasgow, carter, April 6.
Jack, J., Uddingston, Lanarkshire, grocer, April 10.
Mansell, W. W., Glasgow, merchant, April 3.

Smellie, J., and Smellie, G., Patrick, cartwrights, April 6.

DECLARATIONS OF DIVIDENDS.

Cobbett, W., Bear-garden, Southwark, plumber, second div. of 3s. 10d., March 28, and three subsequent Wednesdays, at Edwards's, Sambreok-court—Waghorn, T., Rochester, Kent, draper, first div. of 2s. 3d., March 29, and three subsequent Thursdays, at Stanfield's, Basinghall-street—Hopewell, E., and Thacker, A., Leadenhall-street, City, outfitters, final div. of 4d., March 29, and three subsequent Thursdays, at Stanfield's, Basinghall-street—Heath, E., Bridge House-place, Newington-causeway, leather-sealer, first div. of 2s. 7d., March 29, and three subsequent Thursdays, at Graham's, Coleman-street—Hill, H., High-street, Hampstead, builder, first div. of 11d., any Wednesday, at Whitmore's, Basinghall-street—West, B., Fleet-street, City, and St. James's-walk, Clerkenwell, bookseller, second div. of 2s. 4d., any Wednesday, at Whitmore's, Basinghall-street—Staples, C., and Collyer, J., Southampton, ship plumbers, first div. of 10s., any Wednesday

at Whitmore's, Basinghall-street—Humphreys, J. D., New Wharf-road, Caledonian-road, engineer, first div. of 1s. 11d., any Wednesday, at Whitmore's, Basinghall-street—Russell, J., Chichester, cabinetmaker, first div. of 6s. 3d., any Wednesday, at Whitmore's, Basinghall-street—Headwin, T. A., Winchester-buildings, Great Winchester-street, City, dealer in shares, first div. of 9d., any Wednesday, at Whitmore's, Basinghall-street—Burton, T., Hagley, Worcestershire, builder, first div. of 3s. 3d., any Friday, at Whitmore's, Birmingham.

Markets.

CORN EXCHANGE, LONDON, Monday, March 26.

We had a better supply of English wheat to this morning's market; the whole was not cleared off, and the sales made were at prices rather below those of last Monday; in foreign little was done, and last week's quotations barely supported. For flour the inquiry was limited, but holders indisposed to lower their demands. Barley reader sale. Beans and peas firm. The arrivals of oats were moderate, prices, however, were not higher than on Monday last, and not much life in the trade. Tares find buyers at our quotations. Linseed and cakes without change. Cloverseed in good demand.

BRITISH.		FOREIGN.	
Wheat—	s. d.	Wheat—	s. d.
Essex and Kent, Red	68 70	Danish	80 88
Ditto White	70 80	Konigsberg, Red	73 84
Line, Norfolk, and		Pomeranian, Red	74 82
Yorkshire Red	—	Rostock	74 82
Scotch	66 70	Danish and Holstein	70 74
Rye	44 46	East Friesland	68 70
Barley mashing (new)	32 34	Petersburg	64 72
Distilling	—	Riga and Archangel	58 60
Malt (pale)	62 70	Polish Odessa	66 72
Beans, Managan	42 44	Marianopol	76 82
Thos.	—	Taganrog	56 60
Harrow	43 45	Egyptian	50 52
Mignon	43 45	American (U.S.)	72 80
Peas, White	40 42	Barley, Pomeranian	28 32
Grey	37 40	Konigsberg	28 32
Maple	37 40	Danish	28 32
Boilers	42 44	East Friesland	27 29
Tares (English)	50 52	Egyptian	24 26
Foreign	48 50	Odessa	24 26
Oats (English feed)	24 27	Beans—	
Flour, town made, per		Horse	37 38
Sack of 280 lbs.	62 65	Mignon	40 42
Linseed, English	66 70	Egyptian	34 36
Baltic	68 70	Peas, White	40 42
Black Sea	62 64	Oats—	
Hempseed	40 42	Dutch	24 28
Canaryseed	40 42	Jahde	24 28
Cloverseed, per cwt. of		Danish	22 26
112 lbs. English	56 70	Danish, Yellow feed	25 28
German	56 78	Swedish	25 27
French	44 58	Petersburg	26 27
American	44 48	Flour, per bar. of 190 lbs.	
Linseed Cakes, 150 lbs to 160		New York	38 40
Rape Cake, 62 lbs to 64 lbs per ton		Spanish, per sack	57 58
Rapeseed, 34/0 to 36/0 per last		Carawayseed	32 34

BUTCHER'S MEAT, SMITHFIELD, Monday, March 26.

There was a further slight increase in the supply of foreign stock on offer in to-day's market. The arrivals of beasts fresh up from our own grazing districts were moderate as to number, and their general quality was very prime. As the weather was very favourable for slaughtering, and as the attendance of butchers was tolerably good, the beef trade ruled steady, and most breeds changed hands at an advance in the quotations of Monday last of 2d per lb. The best Scots realised 4d per lb. From Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, and Cambridgeshire, we received 1,500 Scots and short-horns; from other parts of England, 800 of various breeds; and from Scotland, 360 horned and polled Scots. The numbers of sheep were moderate for the time of year, and nearly all kinds reached us in good saleable condition. The mutton trade was firm, and last week's currency was well supported. The best old downs, in the wool, realised 5s 2d; out of the wool, 4s 8d per lb. We had a fair show of lambs. The trade was steady, at full prices, viz., 6s to 6s 8d for Dorsets; and 5s 10d to 6s for downs. Calves—the supply of which was very moderate—moved off steadily, at from 4s to 5s per lb.—being an improvement on Friday's rates of 2d per lb. In pigs, only a limited business was doing, on former terms. The arrivals of stock from Ireland last week, by sea, was confined to 18 beasts.

Per lbs. to sink the offal.

Inf. coarse beasts.	s. d.	s. d.	Pr. coarse woolled	s. d.	s. d.
	3 4	to 3 6		4 6	to 4 12
Second quality	3 8	4 4	Prime Southdown	5 0	5 6
Prime large oxen.	4 6	4 8	Lge. coarse calves	4 0	4 0
Prime Scots, &c.	4 10	5 0	Prime small	4 8	5 0
Coarse inf. sheep	3 8	3 10	Large hogs	3 0	4 0
Second quality	4 0	4 4	Neat sm. porkers	4 2	4 4
Suckling calves, 22s to 29s; Quarter-old-store-pigs, 20s to 25s each.					

Suckling calves, 22s to 25s; Quarter-old store-pigs, 20s to 25s each.

NEWGATE AND LEADENHALL, Monday, March 26.

The supplies of both town and country-killed meat on sale in these markets are tolerably good. Mutton is in steady request, at full prices. Otherwise, the demand is in a sluggish state, and prices show a tendency to give way.

Per lbs. by the carcass.

port a very dull market for all kinds of Irish butter, and prices have a downward tendency. Foreign qualities are a heavy sale, and 4s to 6s per cwt lower than last week. In English butter very little is doing, at late rates. There is more doing in the bacon market, and prices are 1s to 2s per cwt higher. Lard is in good request, and quite as dear as last week. In other kinds of provisions, very little is doing.

PROVISIONS, LONDON, Monday, March 26.—We have to

report a very dull market for all kinds of Irish butter, and prices have a downward tendency. Foreign qualities are a heavy sale, and 4s to 6s per cwt lower than last week. In English butter very little is doing, at late rates. There is more doing in the bacon market, and prices are 1s to 2s per cwt higher. Lard is in good request, and quite as dear as last week. In other kinds of provisions, very little is doing.

PRICES OF BUTTER, CHEESE, HAMS, &c.

—For the time of year the supplies of potatoes on sale here have been large, and the demand is in a singular state, as follows: York regents, 110s to 120s; Kent and Essex ditto, 100s to 110s; Scotch ditto, 90s to 100s; ditto reds, 85s to 95s; middlings, 70s to 80s; Blues, 75s to 85s; Lincolnshire do, 100s to 110s per ton.

POTATOES, BOROUGH AND SPITALFIELDS, Monday, March 26.—For the time of year the supplies of potatoes on sale here have been large, and the demand is in a sluggish state, as follows: York Regents, 110s to 120s; Kent and Essex ditto, 100s to 110s; Scotch ditto, 90s to 100s; ditto red, 85s to 95s; middlings, 70s to 80s; Blues, 75s to 85s; Lincolnshire do, 100s to 110s per ton.

COVENT-GARDEN, Saturday, March 24.—Vegetables have very much improved both in quality and quantity. French endive, lettuce, radishes, globe artichokes, and carrots may still be obtained. French apples are also still imported; they fetch about 8s per bushel. Good pears have become scarce. A few hothouse grapes may now be obtained. Seville oranges bring from 7s to 14s per hundred; common sorts, from 2s 6d to 10s per hundred. Chestnuts, from 10s to 24s per bushel; Spanish nuts, 14s to 20s per bushel; Barcelona, 18s to 24s; French almonds, 24s per bushel, 65s per cwt; and Brazil nuts, 30s per bushel. Quantities of good Cornish broccoli continue to reach the market. Spanish onions may be bought for 2s per dozen. Carrots and turnips are dear. Potatoes are lower in price than

they were last week: a few new ones from France have been sold at from 1s 6d to 2s per bushel. Lettuce ranges 3d to 1s per score. Cut flowers consist of passion-flowers, ligustrum venusta, tulips, heliotropes, euphorbias, poinsettias, camellias, Chinese primroses, heaths, and primroses.

HOPS, BOROUGH, Monday, March 26.—For most kinds of hops the supply of which is very moderate, the demand is steady, but we have no advance to notice in the quotations. This week's imports of foreign hops were 10 bales from Rotterdam, and 303 from Antwerp.

	s. d. s. d.
Mid and East Kent pockets	14 14 to 15 0
Weald of Kent	14 0 to 15 0
Sussex	14 0 to 15 0
Yearlings	7 7 to 12 0

SEEDS, LONDON, Monday, March 26.—Lentils in dull and cheaper. In other seeds only a moderate business is doing.

TALLOW, LONDON, Monday, March 26.—The market for tallow in our market is very moderate, yet prices are well supported. P.Y.C., on the spot, is quoted at 47s 6d to 48s per cwt. Rough fat has declined to 2s 6d per cwt.

PARTICULARS.

	1851.	1852.	1853.	1854.	1855.
Stock	35906	35404	35800	35800	35456
Price of Yellow Candle	40s 0d to 45s 6d	40s 0d to 45s 6d	40s 0d to 45s 6d	40s 0d to 45s 6d	40s 0d to 45s 6d
Delivery last Week	1614	1329	1723	1038	1436
Ditto from the 1st of June	52738	53530	56512	53512	58317
Arrived last Week	457	—	—	—	1350
Ditto from the 1st of June	53577	50790	7954	9644	67739
Price of Town Tallow	41s 6d to 45s 6d	41s 6d to 45s 6d	41s 6d to 45s 6d	41s 6d to 45s 6d	41s 6d to 45s 6d

WOOL, CITY, Monday.—There is rather more wool on offer in the British market. For all kinds the demand is very heavy, and prices are nominally the same as on Monday last.

CURRENT PRICES OF SHEEP'S WOOL.

	s. d. s. d.
Down tags	1 6 to 1 8
Down ewes	1 0 to 1 2
Half-bred ewes	1 0 to 1 2
Half-bred tags	1 0 to 1 2
Kent fleeces	1 0 to 1 2
Long heavy wool fleeces	0 10 to 0 12
Combing skins	0 11 to 0 12
Manuel wool	0 10 to 0 12
Blanket wool	0 7 to 0 8
Leicester fleeces	0 11 to 0 12

The imports of wool into London last week comprised 1,100 bales from Sydney, 150 from New York, 5,140 from Melbourne, 600 from the Cape of Good Hope, 1,010 from Bombay, 100 from Buenos Ayres, 87 from France, and 60 from Portugal. The market has been steady for all descriptions, but not high.

OILS, Monday.—There is a moderate inquiry for refined oil, at 33s 9d to 34s per cwt on the spot. Cayenne seed-oil is quoted at 41s to 41s 6d; and Cocchia, 42s 6d to 43s. Rape is tolerably firm, at 33s to 33s 6d for pale and 31s for brown. Palm is selling at 37s to 40s. Deal moves off steadily, at from 47s to 52s; cod, 40s to 41s; and sperm, 11s to 12s 6d. Turpentine is dull, and again lower.

COALS, Monday.—A general advance on Friday's sale. Batton's, 90s 6d; Stewart's 90s 6d; Harthpool, 10s 6d; Easton Grange, 18s 6d; Tanfield, 17s; Wylm, 90s; Hartley, 10s; Holywell, 90s 6d. Fresh arrivals, 13; left from last day, 15; total, 100.

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AN EARNEST APPEAL to the SINCERE FOLLOWERS OF OUR LORD and SAVIOUR, JESUS CHRIST, to unite in Concert of Prayer, for the 'Termination of the Eastern War.

FELLOW CHRISTIANS.—As the servants of Jesus Christ, permit us to invite you to unite in a concert of prayer, for the cessation of hostilities in Europe, and the early establishment of an honourable peace.

You recognise the overruling providence of Jehovah. You believe in the power of effectual prevailing prayer. You hold the validity of the unrepented promise, "If two of you on earth shall agree as touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven." You appreciate the Divine benediction, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God." With respectful deference, we ask you to give a practical application to these principles, which form a platform on which the people of God with common consent may bend the knee in prayer to the great Father of mercies. The motive to inspire to such a course are indeed of thrilling, overwhelming, and irresistible power. The commercial embarrassments which seem impending, involving the privations of the industrial classes; the expenditure of treasure; the tremendous sacrifice of human life already entailed; the homes desolated, and the widows and orphans wailing under their bereavement; the sufferings of our troops, and the thousands of wounded in our hospitals; and, above all, the immense number of our own soldiers and allies as well as of the Russian army, who have been hurried from the battlefield into the presence of a holy God: these facts all seem to unite in constraining us to appeal to Him who is "our refuge and strength, a present help in time of trouble."

We know that God has often heard the prayers of his faithful servants in seasons of national calamity, when they have wept and pleaded between the porch and the altar. It is our abiding conviction that He is as ready now, as on any former occasion, to display His interposing power. We most candidly submit, we rely with more implicit confidence on the intercession of the saints, than on the wisest cabinets, the most talented diplomacy, the bravest general; or the largest and most valiant military and naval armaments.

We, therefore, beg most respectfully, in the name of the Prince of Peace, to invite you to unite with us in earnest prayer, that God in His infinite mercy would speak to the angry nations, that He would "still the noise of the wars, and the tumult of the people," and grant unto us peace in our time.

The practical suggestions respectfully offered are simply the following:—

1st. That the ministers of Jesus Christ should from their pulpits invite attention to the importance of special prayer for our army and our country.

2nd. That the same should be remembered daily at our family altars.

- 3rd. That where practicable, Christians in their respective localities meet and unite in intercessory prayer.
- 4th. That the subject be remembered by Christians in their private devotions, and particularly on the Saturday evening.
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